

Newsletter (Issue 031/ 2024)

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Website: <https://www.roc-taiwan.org/lv/index.html>

FB: Taipei Mission in the Republic of Latvia

Twitter: @Taiwan_Latvia

E-mail: lva@mofa.gov.tw

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Support for Taiwan's participation in the WHO reaches a new height at 77th WHA



International support for Taiwan's bid to participate in the 77th WHA reaches a record height. Taiwan's eleven diplomatic allies, spoke up for Taiwan during the WHA. Sixteen like-minded countries—the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, New Zealand, Estonia, Luxembourg, Latvia, Israel, the Netherlands, and Belgium—also voiced support for Taiwan.

Latvia's Minister for Health Hosams Abu Meri called upon WHO to remain committed to the principle of "One Health" 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.

Estonia's Minister of Health Riina Sikkut at the WHA on May 28 called on WHO to facilitate meaningful participation of partners including Taiwan for the benefit of global health, and said Taiwan has the will, expertise, and valuable experience to advance global health policy.

In addition, the Group of Seven foreign ministers' meeting and the Australia-UK Ministerial Consultations specifically endorsed Taiwan's involvement in WHO and the WHA. Members of the national legislatures of the United States, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Saint Christopher and Nevis, the Marshall Islands, and Guatemala; the European Parliament; and Formosa Clubs in various regions together made more than 4,000 public appeals for WHO to embrace Taiwan.

<p>2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Taiwan’s President gave interview to Time Magazine</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 45%;">  </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <p>Taiwan’s President Lai Ching-te made an exclusive interview with Time Magazine for a story published June 13. During an interview, President Lai said he will pursue policies that further democracy, maintain regional peace and expand Taiwan’s engagement with the global community to promote prosperity and development around the world.</p> <p>President Lai pointed out that <u>Taiwan’s relations with diplomatic partners are firmly based on the principles of mutual benefit and reciprocity, regardless of which political party is in power. Chinese attempts to sway Taiwan’s allies will not affect the country’s status as a beacon of freedom and bastion of democracy.</u> In terms of cross-strait relations, he said <u>the Republic of China and the People’s Republic of China are not subordinate to each other, and emphasized that the stance was in line with the ROC constitution and had been espoused by his two predecessors.</u></p> <p>(Resource: Taiwan Today)</p> </div> </div>
<p>3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">US President Biden reaffirmed commitment to Taiwan’s security</p> <p><u>US President Joe Biden, in a recent interview with Time magazine, stated that, if China tried to unilaterally change the status quo, the United States would not, in fact, not defend Taiwan and that the United States was continuing to supply capacity and consult with allies in the region, adding that, should China invade Taiwan, the United States would not rule out using military force.</u></p> <p>Using the normal and routine democratic process in democratic countries as a pretext, China has recently exerted military pressure, engaged in gray-zone coercion, and adopted threatening rhetoric in the region. Such activity has posed a major challenge to regional peace, stability, and prosperity and raised serious concerns in the international community.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">US government officially notifies Taiwan of latest arms sale</p> <p><u>Taiwan has received official notification from the United States government that its executive branch has informed Congress of an approximately US\$300 million sale to Taiwan of standard and nonstandard aviation parts and equipment for F-16 aircraft.</u></p> <p>This is the Biden administration’s 14th arms sale package to Taiwan since it assumed</p>

	<p>office in 2021. Continuing the US policy of recent years of normalizing arms sales to Taiwan, <u>the transaction will assist in strengthening Taiwan’s self-defense and deterrence capabilities. It demonstrates the US government’s long-standing and rock-solid security commitment to Taiwan</u>, as well as high regard and support for the status quo of regional peace and stability.</p> <p>With regard to the major military drills recently conducted by China in the waters surrounding Taiwan, and China’s increasingly frequent gray-zone incursions, <u>the United States has worked with like-minded partners to repeatedly urge China to cease such irrational behavior as harassing Taiwan and damaging the peaceful and stable cross-Strait status quo.</u></p>
<p>5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Delegation led by Czech Senate Vice President visited Taiwan</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>Czech Senate Vice President Jiří Drahoš led a 19-member delegation to Taiwan on June 10. During the trip, the delegation met with Taiwan’s President, Vice President, Premier, Legislative Speaker, Foreign Minister and other high officials on mutually concerned issues such as economic and trade, technology, education and culture with the aim of deepening bilateral cooperation.</p> <p>Mr. Drahoš noted that the Taiwan and Czech Republic are founded on the shared values of democracy, freedom and human rights, while sharing similar sentiments on many geopolitical issues. During the stay, Mr. Drahoš also hosted a Czech Republic semiconductor industry business opportunity forum and witnessed the signing of a cooperation agreement between the National Museum in Prague and Taiwan's National Palace Museum.</p> </div> </div>
<p>6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dutch frigate passed through the Taiwan Strait for the first time</p> <p>The Dutch Navy frigate HNLMS Tromp (F803) sailed through Taiwan Strait from south to north for the first time on May 31, showing the government’s support for the freedom of navigation and stability across Taiwan Strait.</p> <p>The HNLMS Tromp was in Japan making goodwill visits to major ports, and participated in the first-ever joint exercise between the Royal Netherlands Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, showing the two countries’ “strong will to achieve the vision of ‘Free and Open Indo-Pacific’ by demonstrating our readiness posture here</p>

	in the East China Sea."
7	<p style="text-align: center;">Like-minded countries expressed concerns over tension in the Taiwan Strait</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Swiss Federal Council</u> recently filed a report to the inquiry of member of Swiss National Council Lukas Reimann regarding China’s launch of a two-day military drills called “Joint Sword-2024A” around Taiwan on May 23-24 which further escalated tensions in the region. It is said in the report that the Swiss government has noticed the rising tension in the Taiwan Strait, and will inform China the importance of obeying international rules on a regular basis. 2. <u>German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock</u> recently expressed her concern over China’s military threat to Taiwan which increased tension across the Taiwan Strait. She further pointed out that at least half of global containers pass through Taiwan Strait each year, countries in the region should support freedom of navigation and opposed any unilateral change to the status-quo. 3. <u>The Dutch House of Representatives</u> adopted a motion on May 23 against China’s escalating military threat toward Taiwan. The motion requires countries of European Union to pay close attention to the Taiwan issue while urging the Dutch government to take action with like-minded countries to safeguard stability in the Taiwan Strait. 4. During the opening remark of the “Schuman Security and Defence Forum” which took place in Brussels on 28 May 2024, <u>High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs Joseph Borrell</u> highlighted the importance of cross-Strait stability especially Taiwan plays an indispensable role in chip manufacturing and high-technology, adding that any conflicts in the region will bring about negative impact to the world community.
8	<p style="text-align: center;">China’s brutal implementation of Provisions on Administrative Law Enforcement Procedures of Coast Guard Agencies</p> <p>China recently issued Coast Guard Order No. 3, announcing that <u>the Provisions on Administrative Law Enforcement Procedures of Coast Guard Agencies</u>, formulated in line with the 2021 Coast Guard Law, will come into effect on June 15. The provisions <u>will authorize the China Coast Guard to board, inspect, and detain foreign vessels and persons suspected of violating exit and entry management procedures in waters that China considers to be under its jurisdiction.</u> This move has provoked a high degree of <u>international concern</u>. In addition to increasing regional tensions, it will impact navigation safety for international commercial and fishing vessels.</p>
9	Computex 2024 showcased global tech in Taipei



Computex, one of the most important annual high-tech trade shows in the world, got underway June 4 in Taipei. Themed Connecting AI, this year's event hosts 4,500 booths with 1,500 local and foreign exhibitors unveiling their latest offerings in six major domains of AI Computing, Advanced Connectivity, Future Mobility, Immersive Reality, Sustainability and Innovations. This year over 400 startups from 30 plus countries took part in a variety of activities such as pitch competitions, thematic forums and startup presentations.

Impressive speaker included Chair and CEO of Advanced Micro Devices Inc., President and CEO of Qualcomm Inc., CEO of Intel Corp., Executive Vice President and CTO of NXP Semiconductors and CEO of Nvidia Corp..

(Resource: Taiwan Today)

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Taiwan Expo 2024 kicked off in Berlin



The Taiwan Expo 2024 in Europe kicked off June 10 in Berlin as part of government promotion to aid local firms' expansion into major overseas markets. Themed "Digital Horizon, Green Tomorrow," it featured 110 high-tech firms showcasing offerings in artificial intelligence applications and sustainable green technologies.