



## Headline News

### UN children's rights convention implemented in Taiwan

On 20 November, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the UN in 1989, was officially implemented in Taiwan. Premier Jiang Yi-huah said the convention's implementation has brought Taiwan's children's rights protection measures into compliance with international standards. Although the ROC is no longer a UN member, the Legislative Yuan passed the Enforcement Act of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 May 2014, thereby transposing the treaty into domestic law.



ROC President Ma Ying-jeou met with a youth delegation to mark Universal Children's Day and the implementation of the Convention in Taiwan. Ma said that teachers and government officials should pay attention to the safety of children and ensure that students receive a well-rounded education. He said that in recent years, the government has been working to protect children at their earliest stages of development, by allowing expectant mothers to take pregnancy leave. In addition, Taiwan is one of the few countries in Asia that offers paid parental leave, he said, adding that the policy has so far benefited 250,000 people.

## Domestic News

### Taiwan sets to become first country to remove all mercury street lamps

On 14 November, Premier Jiang Yi-huah approved a project to phase out all mercury-vapor street lamps in

Taiwan and replace them with more energy efficient LED lamps by the end of 2016, with funding from the central government. A budget of NT\$5.49 billion (US\$179 million) will be allocated for the two-year conversion project, which aims to unplug 692,000 mercury street lamps around Taiwan.

The plan will be backed up by regulations enforcing a ban on mercury-vapor street lamps. Once completed, it could help reduce yearly electricity consumption by 640 million kilowatts and carbon dioxide emissions by 330,000 metric tons, and generate a "production value" of over NT\$6 billion. That is good news for local governments looking to reduce their financial burdens. The Executive Yuan estimated that annual electricity spending will drop by NT\$1.1 billion and cities and counties will save NT\$346 million a year on street lamp maintenance.

## Local Activities

### Representative Tung gave lecture on cross-Strait relations at KULeuven

On 17 November, Representative Kung-yu Tung of the Taipei Representative Office (TRO) in the EU and Belgium gave a lecture on cross-Strait relations and their impact on ROC-EU relations at the KULeuven. At the invitation of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Representative Tung gave a 2-hour lecture to an audience of over 100 graduate students in political and European studies. The lecture, entitled "Sailing in Choppy Waters: Cross-Strait Relations and Their Impact on the EU", focused on the history and development of relations between Taiwan and the mainland, as well as their implications on the global political scene. Stressing the shared values of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights, Tung showed the students that although the EU and Taiwan are very

distant geographically, they share many similarities, and therefore are ideal partners on many fields. The students were very interested and seemed to enjoy this 'crash course' on cross-Strait relations.



## Information

### Taiwan's U-Theatre will give opening performance at Bruges dance festival

Taiwanese dance & percussion group U-Theatre and choreographer Shang-chi Sun will be representing Taiwan at the upcoming Bruges international dance festival 'December Dance'. *Beyond Time*, by U-Theatre, is an unforgettable mix of traditional martial arts, contemporary choreography, energetic oriental percussion, tai chi and meditation techniques. An entrancing and remarkably poised oriental ritual plays out, in which movement, music, sound, light and dance come together in a fascinating spectacle. In *Uphill*, Sun presents dance *pur sang*: an abstract work consisting of pure body language, with no narrative and no dramatic setting. Its three dancers touch and explore each other in an interplay of provocation and trust, sometimes meditative, sometimes radical.



**U-Theatre:** Thursday 4 December, 8 PM,  
Concertgebouw Brugge

**Shang-chi Sun:** Thursday 11 December,  
8 PM, MaZ, Magdalenestraat 27 Brugge

<http://www.concertgebouw.be/en/sub/decemberdance/detail/469/Home>