



Headline News

US interested in learning about Taiwan's health care system

On March 11, Yeh Ching-chuan, former Director General of Taiwan's Department of Health, was invited to testify during a hearing of the US Senate. Yeh explained Taiwan's public health insurance program before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions amid controversy around President Obama's health care program. The Senators were interested in Taiwan's health insurance program, which delivers health care costs that are a quarter of those found in the US on a cost-of-living adjusted basis. It also offers better outcomes than the US system, according to Yeh.



One reason for the lower cost is that Taiwan adheres to the principle of free competition, which improves efficiency and reduces waste, Yeh said. After the hearing he nuanced that there is no system suitable for one country that could be fully applied to another country.

EU-Taiwan Relations

Cycling race draws strong European participation

When Tour de Taiwan kicked off on March 9, the majority of cyclists at the start line in Taipei were Europeans, the organizers said. "We have seen a huge increase in the level of interest from European cyclists this year, who account for the majority of competitors," said Lee Kai-chih, Secretary-General of the Chinese Taipei Cycling Association. The race, Taiwan's major international cycling

event, has become more attractive to European cyclists following its upgrade last year from class 2.2 to class 2.1, Lee said. The upgrade is a reflection of Tour de Taiwan's rising position in Asia.

From 9 to 13 March, 200 cyclists from 30 countries covered a distance of 676 kilometers in 5 stages, cycling around the whole island. French cyclist Remy Di Gregorio claimed the yellow jacket as the overall winner of the 2014 Tour de Taiwan.

Local Activities

Taiwan Week highlights educational cooperation

During the official opening of the Taiwan Week at Ghent University on 10 March, Vice Rector Freddy Mortier took a moment to loud the strong ties between his university and Taiwan's educational institutions. He stressed that Ghent University has already established 10 cooperation and exchange programs with Taiwan. Mortier expressed the hope that through the activities of Taiwan Week students of Ghent University would get a better knowledge and understanding of the country. In his opening remarks, Representative Kuoyu Tung praised the outstanding academic reputation of Ghent University and he hoped that bilateral exchanges could be increased so that, in the future, more Taiwan students would come to Ghent to pursue their studies.



Afterwards the gathered audience enjoyed the reception with Taiwan snacks while they visited the photo exhibition *A Narrative of Light & Shadow*, featuring the works of 4

Taiwanese female photographers. Many said they were pleasantly surprised to learn new things about Taiwan's cultural and natural heritage.

Information

Taiwan director Tsai Ming-liang in Brussels

This spring, the works of the eccentric and renowned Taiwan movie and theatre director Tsai Ming-liang will be the focus of a number of cultural projects in Brussels.

21 March to 25 May:

Cinéma Galeries

Retrospective of 13 of Tsai's movies

Art installation "Walker", inspired by the life of Buddhist monk Xuan Zang

Opening on Friday 21 March at 7 PM

Galerie de la Reine 26, Brussels

All are welcome



3 May to 7 May

Kunstenfestivaldesarts

World premiere of Tsai's play "The Monk from the Tang Dynasty"

Hotel Marivaux

Boulevard Adolphe Max 98, Brussels

More information can be found on the websites of [Cinéma Galeries](#) and

[Kunstenfestivaldesarts](#)

Chinese Calligraphy Event

On Thursday 20 March, the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium will organize a Chinese Calligraphy Event for everyone interested in learning the noble art. Registration is not required and all materials will be provided.

20 March, 12:30-14:30, HUB Room 6215, Warmoesberg 26 Brussels