



## Headline News

### Ma sees APEC as best venue for meeting with mainland China leader

On 31 May, ROC President Ma Ying-jeou said that, since mainland China's leader Xi Jinping assumed the presidency last year, he has been very active in developing relations with Taiwan and a suitable occasion for a meeting between him and Xi would be the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' summit. Ma said the venue would be acceptable to the Taiwan public, but added that there seems to be some difficulties for Beijing to agree on such a proposal. This year's APEC meeting will be held in Beijing from 10 to 11 November and will be attended by leaders of the 21 APEC members. Since 1991, Taiwan has been a full member of this organization which pursues free trade and economic cooperation.



When Xi met with Taiwan's former Vice President Vincent Siew at the APEC Summit last year, he said that in the "long term", political differences between the two sides must be resolved and not be passed on from generation to generation.

## Taiwan-EU Relations

### Taiwan aiming to advance ties with EU parliament

On 29 May, Zhang Ming-zhong, Director-General of the ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department of European Affairs congratulated the winners of the European parliamentary elections on behalf of the Republic of China. In addition, he expressed Taiwan's willingness to continue its efforts to improve ties with the EU under the new European

Parliament. Zhang said some members of the existing European Parliament-Taiwan Friendship Group were re-elected. He added that Taiwan will continue strengthening the bond with them while seeking to develop friendships with newly elected parliamentarians in a bid to strengthen ties between Taiwan and Europe.



As the parliament is one of the EU's main law-making institutions, it plays a major role in the development of ties between Taiwan and the EU. The European Parliament has expressed support for an economic cooperation agreement between Taiwan and the European Union and Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

## Economic News

### Taiwan foreign investment climate ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in global report

According to the US-based Foreign Policy magazine that evaluated 112 countries, Taiwan is the third best destination in the world for foreign investors. In its 2014 Baseline Profitability Index (BPI), Taiwan's BPI value in 2014 was 1.2, the same as last year, which means Taiwan maintained its position as the world's third best investment target. The top destination was Botswana with a BPI value of 1.31, followed by Hong Kong with 1.22.

The BPI report, presented by economist Daniel Altman, assessed eight factors to determine the investment value of an economy: economic growth; financial stability; physical security; corruption; expropriation by government;

exploitation by local partners; capital controls; and exchange rates.

## International News

### Taiwan signs anti human trafficking memorandum with US

Taiwan and the US have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to exchange and disseminate information to help combat human trafficking, the National Immigration Agency (NIA) said on 31 May. The NIA stated it is becoming increasingly vital to form international partnerships to counter human smuggling, as the efforts of any single nation are inadequate and ineffective. The MOU will enable Taiwan and the US to work closely within the confines of the law to jointly stop human trafficking, the NIA said.

## Information

### "Made in Taiwan" Web Portal

In an attempt to help enterprises which manufacture or process domestic-oriented products cope with the impact of trade liberalization, the Republic of China's Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) has created the "Made in Taiwan Smile Logo" and "Made in Taiwan Smile Product Certification System". Through these projects, the MOEA hopes that Taiwan's consumers would preferentially choose Taiwan-made products, thus supporting native industries and enterprises. The logo also serves as an extra indication that products have been assessed as safe, healthy and trustworthy. This website explains how companies can apply for their products to receive the MIT Smile Logo (this includes foreign companies, as long as their products are manufactured or processed in Taiwan). Regulations concerning the assignment and use of the MIT Smile Logo are also listed on the website.



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