



Headline News

President Ma: Taiwan's future is up to its people

On 11 June, ROC President Ma Ying-jeou reaffirmed that Taiwan's future is in the hands of its 23 million people, an apparent response to Beijing's statement earlier in the day that the fate of Taiwan is up to "all Chinese people." Two weeks ago, during his visit to mainland China, Tainan Mayor Lai Ching-te, member of the opposition party DPP, said that Taiwan's future is in its own hands. In reaction, mainland China's Taiwan Affairs Office spokeswoman, Fan Liqing, told reporters that Beijing's stance on Taiwan has not changed, reiterating its position that Taiwan and mainland China are not separate countries, but are two parts of the same nation that have not yet reunited.



A spokesperson of the Presidential Office said in a statement that President Ma has always insisted, that the future of Taiwan rests with its people and the Constitution of the Republic of China. The Mainland Affairs Council, the government body in charge of cross-strait relations, also issued a statement supporting the right of the people of Taiwan to determine their own future.

Taiwan-EU Relations

Taiwan, German officials hold significant meeting

On June 10, ROC Culture Minister Lung Ying-tai met with Stephan Steinlein, state secretary of Germany's Federal Foreign Office, in Berlin. The two officials exchanged views on bilateral cultural exchanges, human rights, transitional justice and

cross-strait interaction. It was the highest-level meeting between officials from Taiwan and Germany in many years, according to the Ministry.

During their one-hour meeting, Lung expressed a desire for closer contacts between Taiwan and Germany in the areas of the arts, literature and culture, a sentiment echoed by Steinlein. The meeting was part of Lung's 10-day trip to Switzerland and Germany, aiming to deepen the cultural ties between Taiwan and these two countries.

International News

Taiwan donates relief goods to the Philippines

On 9 June, Taiwan donated 200 tons of rice to the Philippines to help with ongoing relief efforts after the passage of typhoon Haiyan last November. The ROC's representative to the Philippines Raymond Wang and Andy Cheng, Head of Taiwan Association Philippines Inc., presented the rice symbolically to eight members of the Philippine House of Representatives. Speaker Felicio Belmonte expressed his gratitude for the concern shown by the Taiwanese and hoped that the friendship between the two countries will be displayed not only following natural disasters but also through close communication at all times.



Taiwan has continuously provided assistance after the disastrous typhoon. The ROC representative office donated more than US\$1.5 million, and the Tzu Chi Foundation, Taiwan's largest charity group, donated more than US\$12.22 million in supplies and other aid.

Cross-Strait Relations

Taipei Mayor touts strong bond with Shanghai

During the 5th Taipei-Shanghai City Forum in Taipei on 9 June, Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin touted Taipei's bonds of brotherhood with Shanghai, saying the two cities have almost become one. Hau said the two cities have signed 19 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to promote mutual cooperation and exchange, and have not just moved ahead together but have stood out as role models for other cities. The main topics of the Forum were changes in cities, innovation and design, and "green convenient cities." Four new MOUs for cooperations and exchanges between the two cities were signed.

Information

"Taiwan Excellence" web portal

In order to support local industries, to increase the added-value of Taiwan's products and boost Taiwan's international competitiveness, the ROC Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) established the "Taiwan Excellence Award" as the common symbol for quality products from Taiwan to the international audience. "R&D", "Design", "Quality", "Marketing", and "Made in Taiwan" are the five categories by which candidates of the "Taiwan Excellence Award" are judged. Products selected by the judges are allowed to use the "Taiwan Excellence Mark" for promotional purposes in Taiwan and overseas.

A handy website offers an introduction into the world of Taiwan Excellence, including an oversight of winners during the past years and links to related industries and social media.



Visit the website through this link:
<http://www.taiwanexcellence.org/en>