



Headline News

ROC President Ma delivers National Day address

During his National Day Address on 10 October, ROC President Ma Ying-jeou said that the government is committed to creating a brighter future for Taiwan and ensuring it continues along a path of peace and prosperity. "We must accelerate the promotion of such endeavors as business innovation, economic transformation and industrial upgrade, while expanding Taiwan's international space and cross-Strait stability. It is our responsibility to uphold the freedom, security and prosperity we enjoy today, which the ROC's forefathers fought so hard to establish," he said.



According to President Ma, this year's National Day has great significance as it coincides with the 70th anniversary of the ROC victory in the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945). Under the leadership of the ROC government, the nation's military and civilians defeated a formidable enemy, restoring territorial sovereignty while making a major contribution to the Allied victory in World War II, he said.

EU-Taiwan Relations

European Commission expresses interest in investment negotiation with ROC

On 14 October, the European Commission released a new trade and investment strategy for the

European Union, entitled 'Trade for All: Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy'. According to the new approach, the EU will explore launching negotiations on investment with Taiwan. EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström also confirmed that the EU is willing to open talks with Taiwan on an investment agreement, but did not disclose when such talks might begin. In response, the ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it appreciates the development. "The Ministry hopes the European Commission will begin negotiations on an investment agreement with Taiwan as soon as possible, to create more mutual trade benefits."

Cross-Strait Relations

Hsia-Zhang meeting buttresses cross-Strait ties

On 14 October, Minister Hsia Li-yan of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council met with Minister Zhang Zhijun, from mainland China's Taiwan Affairs Office in Guangzhou, to discuss a wide range of issues and reaffirm the 1992 Consensus as the basis for continued peaceful and stable cross-Strait relations. The two sides stressed the importance of communications mechanisms and the institutionalization of high-level cross-Strait ties.



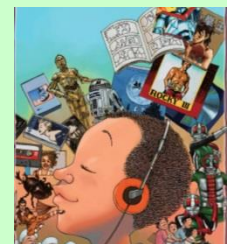
Taiwan also emphasized the value of expanding the scope of and channels for official, regular interaction. The two sides agreed to continue negotiations on a trade in goods agreement, with the aim of reaching a consensus by year-end, as well as

on the establishment of reciprocal representative offices. Talks on an environmental protection accord will also be speeded up.

Information

Taiwanese comic artist featured in Brussels Comics Art Museum

From 13 October onwards, Taiwanese comic artist Sean Chuang's is the guest of honor at the Gallery of the Brussels Comics Art Museum. His latest work "80's Diary in Taiwan" is an autobiographic masterpiece, in which Chuang tells the story of his childhood in Taipei at a pivotal moment in the island's history. Growing up in this period meant he was part of the first generation to experience the gradual lifting of martial law. This also afforded him the freedom to discover life through his own experiences: the summers of first loves, broken hearts and Vespas, high jinks with school mates in the dormitories... His graphic novel has been translated into French and is the object of a special exposition in the Museum's Gallery.



When: 13 October-29 November

Where: Brussels Comics Art Museum, Zandstraat 20, Brussels

<http://www.comicscenter.net/en/exhibitions/the-gallery/sean-chuang>