



Headline News

ROC President Ma lauds rapid growth of visitor arrivals to Taiwan

Speaking at the Tourism Festival Award Ceremony on 3 March, ROC President Ma Ying-jeou said that the number of foreign visitor arrivals to Taiwan has increased rapidly over the past six years in a boom that has been like a "mini revolution". Annual foreign visitor arrivals to Taiwan first broke the 1 million mark in 1976, reached 2 million in 1989, and by 2005 had exceeded 3 million. Last year, they increased by an annual 24 percent to 9.91 million, the second highest growth in the world after Japan.



In 2014, Taiwan's tourism revenues rose to NT\$437 billion (€12.62 billion) compared with NT\$187.1 billion in 2008. According to Tourism Bureau statistics, Taiwan recorded an increase in visitor arrivals from all its major source countries last year, especially South Korea, which showed a 50% growth. Noting that Taiwan has set the goal of welcoming 10 million visitors this year, Ma urged tourism authorities not to place too much emphasis on quantity but rather to focus on upgrading the quality of the tourism experience.

EU-Taiwan Relations

MEP visiting ROC on fact-finding trip

Dutch MEP Bas Belder visited Taiwan from 3-6 March, to learn more about its political and economic

situation, as well as the development of cross-strait relations. Belder visited the Legislative Yuan, the National Security Bureau, the Cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council and the Straits Exchange Foundation, as well as the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA), Taiwan's main trade promotion body. The ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs described Belder as a long-term friend of Taiwan who has been supportive of the East China Sea Peace Initiative, which was proposed by President Ma in 2012, and of Taiwan's efforts to expand its participation in international organizations.

ECCT releases 2015 report on low carbon initiatives

On 5 March, The European Chamber of Commerce in Taiwan (ECCT) released its annual report as part of its 'Low Carbon Initiative', which aims to encourage local businesses and policy-makers to lower their carbon emissions. This year's report focused on energy efficiency in industry, and highlighted the importance of better technology in the production cycle. It also provided insights on EU regulations and best practices in Europe and Taiwan, in achieving energy conservation measures.



ROC Economics Minister John Deng received the publication on its release, on behalf of the government. The ECCT spearheaded its 'Low Carbon Initiative' in 2012, to showcase the best European low carbon practices via three platforms: advocacy, best practices, corporate social responsibility and education.

The initiative is aimed at raising sustainable development awareness and promoting the adoption of low carbon solutions, in order to help Taiwan reduce its emissions.

Miscellaneous News

Taiwan ranked world's 5th happiest by Bloomberg News

Taiwan was listed as the world's 5th happiest economy in a recent survey conducted by Bloomberg News, published on 3 March. The leading five economies in the 51 ranked are respectively Thailand, Switzerland, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. The two factors that make consumers unhappy are inflation and unemployment, and the degree of happiness is calculated and ranked according to what Bloomberg referred to as the "misery index."

Local Activities

Taiwan artist holds exhibition in Luxembourg

On 7 March, an exhibition by Taiwanese artist Chang Hsia-Fei, entitled "Worst Day of My Whole Life", was officially opened, in her presence, at the art center Dominique Nei Licht, in the city of Dudelange. Chang has been living in Europe for over 20 years, and this is the second time her work is on display in Dudelange. The exhibition has been conceived as a novel, which visitors can read in their own way, with 'chapters' focusing on different themes such as the superficiality of modern media, as well as universal feelings such as sadness, fear and treachery.

