



Headline News

Descendants of WWII heroes in Taiwan to advocate peace

At the invitation of the ROC government, Cindy Vautrin, great-grandniece of American Missionary Minnie Vautrin; and Thomas Rabe, grandson of German businessman John Rabe, attended commemorations to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII. Rabe and Vautrin talked about the heroic acts of their ancestors who were in China during the War of Resistance against Japan (1937-1945). John Rabe and Minnie Vautrin were among the foreign nationals who created a safety zone in Nanjing in 1937 when the city fell to Japanese troops. It provided shelter to more than 200,000 civilians during the 'Rape of Nanjing'.



As a sign of appreciation, the ROC government invited their families to attend the WWII commemorative events in Taiwan. President Ma Ying-jeou met with the two visitors and awarded them medals in honor of Rabe and Vautrin. Both of them stressed that "peace is the most important target" and called for the world "to recognize and to remember what happened and to learn from that."

EU-Taiwan Relations

Outgoing EU Representative praises democracy in Taiwan

During an interview with Taiwan's Central News Agency, outgoing EU

Representative Frédéric Laplanche, Head of the European Economic and Trade Office (EETO) in Taipei, said that the rapid development of Taiwan's democracy, as well as government efforts to protect freedom of speech and human rights, are something to be celebrated. "Taiwan has changed dramatically since I first arrived 20 years ago to study local democratization," he said, adding that he admires the ability of Taiwan's democratic institutions to ensure efficient elections. "The EU and Taiwan are very close from the perspectives of a democratic society and economic development."



During his two EETO terms, Laplanche worked to promote Taiwan-EU NGO exchanges, especially in the areas of consumer rights, environmental protection, as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights. "Taiwan is a regional leader in advocating LGBT rights, and I expect a collaboration with the EU later in the year on this topic."

International News

US lauds Taiwan-launched environmental initiative

On 10 August, US official Jane Nashida, of the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) said that the International Environmental Partnership (IEP) is a major program that has enabled countries to cooperate and exchange experiences in environmental protection. The IEP was launched by ROC President Ma Ying-jeou during

the visit of EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy in April 2014. The United States was the first country to join the IEP, and so far, 28 in total have joined the initiative.



Speaking at the first IEP conference in Washington, Wei Kuo-yen, Head of Taiwan's Environmental Protection Administration, noted that Taiwan and the US have signed bilateral agreements for technical cooperation in the field of environmental protection over more than 20 years, and have carried out more than 200 projects. Representatives from many countries are attending the conference to share their experiences in environmental management, Wei said.

Domestic News

Taiwan recovers from Typhoon Soudelor

On 7 August, Typhoon Soudelor arrived in Taiwan, bringing heavy rains and strong winds of over 200 km/h. 7 people were killed, 402 injured and 5 reported missing in its wake, with 4.24 million households experiencing power outages. The damage to school buildings and property is estimated at € 3.4 million, while estimates of the agricultural losses the country suffered from Typhoon Soudelor rose to €8.4 million. Relief and reconstruction efforts started as soon as weather conditions stabilized.