



Headline News

MOFA holds international NGO forum on climate change

On 21 August, the ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Environmental Protection Administration organized an international NGO conference on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The 2015 UNFCCC NGO Forum focused on issues such as gender, indigenous people, public health and other matters related to climate change.



It was attended by local academics, experts and NGO representatives, as well as their counterparts from the United Kingdom, the United States, Sweden, the Philippines and New Zealand. Taiwan has held the UNFCCC NGO Forum annually since 2013 to strengthen the role of Taiwan's NGOs in the international arena, and support relationship building between local NGOs and their international counterparts.

EU-Taiwan Relations

ECCT holds first meeting with Taipei mayor, Ko Wen-je

On 24 August, the European Chamber of Commerce Taiwan (ECCT) hosted its annual roundtable lunch with the Taipei municipal government, marking its first meeting with mayor Ko Wen-je, who took office in December 2014. The event attracted approximate 150 guests,

including senior officials from the city government, 11 ECCT board directors, supervisors and many committee co-chairs.



In answer to a question about traffic safety, Ko said the city has adopted a scientific approach to addressing two priorities: ensuring safety and efficiency. Through a network of 28 industry and support committees, the ECCT addresses specific concerns and provides recommendations to the government to improve the business environment. With over €29.3 billion in direct foreign investment, European companies remain the largest group of foreign investors in Taiwan.

Cross-Strait Relations

ROC, mainland China sign taxation, flight safety pacts

On 25 August, Lin Join-sane, Chairman of the ROC Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), and Chen Deming, President of mainland China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS), signed two agreements on double taxation avoidance and aviation safety in Fuzhou. The taxation agreement covers businesses based in Taiwan including those that invest in mainland China via a third territory. According to the ROC Ministry of Finance, the agreement will not only reduce the tax burden on Taiwanese companies but will also encourage foreign companies to set up in Taiwan and to use it as a base to access the Chinese market. The

flight safety agreement, meanwhile, allows airlines to appoint local maintenance plants for safety inspections and maintenance services for their cross-Strait routes. This will reduce flight delays and decrease operating costs.

Information



Taiwan to host international tea ceramics exhibition in Antwerp

Taiwan is a place with a rich tea culture. Through the centuries, the tea bowl or *chawan* has witnessed many cultural changes, political upheavals, and new manufacturing techniques. That is the reason why tea ceramics have a wide variety of styles, shapes and colors. Taiwan will host the 17th edition of the International Chawan Expo, Taiwan will be the host country where local and international pottery artists and tea masters will give master classes and workshops, and a wide variety of tea related ceramics will be on display.



Exhibition: 12-20 September
Sint-Bernardusabdij, 2620 Hemiksem
free entry

Masterclasses – workshops:
18-20 September, De Rupel, Hoek 67,
2850 Boom