



Taiwan Newsletter

Headline News

President Tsai pledges to expand Taiwan-US cooperation on regional peace, prosperity and stability

While receiving a 19-strong US congressional delegation comprising members of the House and Senate armed services committees, President Tsai Ing-wen said Feb. 21 that Taiwan is committed to expanding cooperation with the US in promoting regional peace, prosperity and stability.



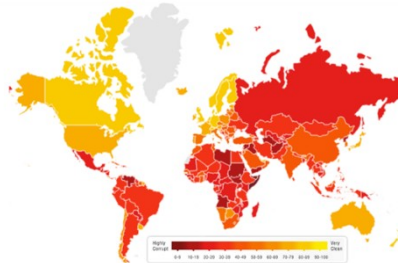
According to the President, Taiwan supports the US goal of promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific and will continue to pursue opportunities to deepen exchanges on related efforts. Describing the US Congress as a long-term friend of Taiwan, Tsai said that the country has never felt alone owing to the enduring backing it has received from US lawmakers in areas spanning arms sales, international participation, trade and the promotion of high-level exchanges. This support was highlighted earlier this month when the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations passed the Taiwan Travel Act. The move further enhanced the mutual trust between the two sides, said President Tsai.

International News

Taiwan improves in Transparency International corruption perceptions survey

Taiwan ranked 29th least corrupt out of 180 countries and territories in the latest Corruption Perceptions Index

released on Feb. 21 by Berlin-based Transparency International. Taiwan received 63 out of 100, a score that indicates the lowest level of perceived corruption. This score marked the nation's best performance in the past five years and ups two points from the previous edition. According to the Agency Against Corruption (AAC) under the Ministry of Justice, Taiwan's improvement highlights the effectiveness of government efforts over the past year in promoting clean governance and judicial reform.



The AAC said that the government will continue to enhance public administration transparency in line with the spirit of the U.N. Convention against Corruption through such measures as promoting passage of legislation on whistleblower protection. The agency added that Taiwan is also working to foster international awareness of its achievements in tackling corruption by deepening participation in various international activities and conferences. Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index has been published annually since 1995. This year's edition aggregated 13 different data sources released over the past two years by 12 international institutions.

Cultural News

Director David Lim wins top honor at London international film festival

Taiwan filmmaker David Lim was awarded the prize for Best Director of

a Short Foreign Language Film for his latest production "Fight" at the 9th London International Filmmaker Festival of World Cinema on Feb. 17, beating other 13 nominees from around the world. The plot of Lim's film revolves around a child, a teenager and a man who struggle with whether to exact revenge on a group of neighborhood bullies.



Originally a theater director, Lim began making films in 2009. The same year, he co-produced the short film "Secret Sea", which won Best Short Film at the 2009 Golden Harvest Awards, Taiwan's highest honor for short films.

Miscellaneous News

Taipei 101 to host Towerrunning World Championship in May

On May 5 Taiwan's landmark Taipei 101 will host the 2nd Towerrunning World Championships, offering elite athletes from home and abroad a challenging course spanning 2,046 stairs to the building's 91st floor at a vertical height of 390 meters.



Co-organized by Taipei Financial Center Corp. and Austria-headquartered Towerrunning World Association, the event will feature 100 leading stair runners competing for first prizes of 3,000 euros (US\$3,700) in the men's and women's categories.

