

TAIWAN NEWSLETTER

Lai stresses defense, economy in National Day address

President Lai Ching-te delivered his National Day address at the Presidential Office, October 10, pledging to maintain Taiwan's economic competitiveness and uphold cross-strait stability to promote regional prosperity.

During his speech, the President highlighted Taiwan's robust economic performance with 5.1 per cent growth in 2025 and rising exports. He also outlined strategies to sustain this momentum, including NT\$720 billion (€20.05 million) in new loans and the Trillion NT Dollar Investment National Development Plan for critical infrastructure.

President Lai announced that defence spending will exceed 3 per cent of GDP



next year to accelerate the T-Dome air defence system and integrate artificial intelligence into military capabilities. In this realm, he further emphasised collaboration with advanced nations' defence industries

to strengthen domestic supply chains.

The President also took the opportunity to urge China to stop distorting UN Resolution 2758 and renounce the use of force or coercion across the Taiwan Strait.

Officials see promise of German Taiwanese Dialogue Platform

Deputy Foreign Minister François Chih-chung Wu stated the German Taiwanese Dialogue Platform would advance security and societal resilience for both parties while attending a welcome reception for attendees, October 7.

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the platform's first meeting was held in Berlin last May and is jointly supported by MOFA and the German Federal Foreign Office. During the event, Karsten Tietz, director general of German Institute Taipei, emphasised that both sides share common values and face challenges from neighbouring authoritarian

regimes, before adding that Germany firmly stands with Taiwan in defence of democracy and freedom.

This year's forum, held October 8-9, was co-chaired by Lin Minn-tsong, distinguished professor in physics at National Taiwan University, and Reinhard Bütikofer, former Member of the European Parliament.



MOFA thanks global community for backing Taiwan's ICAO bid

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) expressed sincere appreciation for global support of Taiwan's meaningful participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), October 14, noting that over 10,000 political figures from around 100 countries have voiced support since 2022.

A delegation led by Lin Jiunn-liang, deputy director general of the Civil Aviation Administration, travelled to Montreal for this year's ICAO assembly, conducting 27 bilateral meetings and holding an interna-

tional press conference at the Canadian Parliament's National Press Gallery. Allies reaffirmed their support through official statements and social media, while like-minded partners also expressed backing, including US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and high-level Irish and Swedish officials.

Transport Minister Chen Shih-kai's op-ed promoting Taiwan's bid received nearly 161 reports across 38 countries, whilst MOFA's social media campaign garnered 2.27 million views.

Winners of inaugural Taiwan human rights film awards honored in Taipei

The Taiwan International Human Rights Film Festival held its first awards ceremony, October 12, recognising films addressing topics including the White Terror, labour rights, judicial justice and religious freedom. The National Human Rights Museum shortlisted 20 films from 102 submissions. "The Taste of Pork Belly" directed by Sophie Shui and depicting 1960s martial law Taiwan, claimed the Open Category top prize. "A Better Place" by Malaysian director Ben Oui won the Student Category for exploring the blurred line between foreign students and migrant workers in Taiwan.



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