



Mosaic Taiwan is a fellowship exchange program for promising young leaders from the US and Canada hoping to gain firsthand experience of the Republic of China (Taiwan), a vibrant Asian democracy in which a diversity of cultures has prospered. Sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the program provides young people with an interest in global affairs the opportunity to better understand Taiwan's culture and society through extensive exchanges with local students and professionals and to explore the beauty of the country's natural environment. It also gives young leaders from Taiwan international exposure by fostering dialogue with their overseas counterparts.

An island of great beauty

The Republic of China, popularly known as Taiwan, is situated in the Western Pacific between Japan and the Philippines. The total area of Taiwan proper and its outlying islands is 36,193.6 square kilometers, equivalent to the size of the State of Maryland. It has more than its share of nature splendor. Forested foothills occupy more than half of Taiwan; other physiographic regions include volcanic mountains, tablelands, coastal plains, and basins. Taiwan's tropical-to-temperate spectrum of climatic zones and wide range of topographies have made the island a paradise of flora and fauna.





An open society

With a population of over 23 million, Taiwan has been a melting pot of people, including diverse Han subgroups (97 percent), indigenous Austronesian peoples (2 percent), and immigrants from all over the world (1 percent). Today in Taiwan, different ethnic groups are well integrated in society. Thanks to the joint efforts of the government and civil society, there is also a growing appreciation for the cultural diversity of the 16 officially recognized Austronesian-speaking subgroups, as well as new immigrants, mainly from Southeast Asian countries. This convergence and interplay of currents of humanity in Taiwan have helped transform it into an open, forward-looking society.



A vibrant democracy

Taiwan is one of the most open, progressive democracies in Asia. Taiwan attaches great importance to human rights, which comprise an integral part of everyday life. Legislation to enhance people's welfare, promote social equality, and safeguard labor rights is a manifestation of the government's staunch commitment to its people. In 2016, Taiwan elected its first female president, Tsai Ing-wen, marking the maturity and ongoing consolidation of its democracy.



Reaching out to the world

Taiwan's steadfast diplomacy has come to encapsulate its willingness to expand its international participation and to build mutually beneficial ties with countries that share common values. As a model member of the global community, Taiwan continues to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and actively participates in international efforts to tackle epidemic diseases, climate change, terrorism, and transnational crime. In the hope of advancing common values of peace, freedom, democracy, and human rights, Taiwan works with allies and like-minded countries to foster governmental, business, and people-to-people exchanges. Programs such as Mosaic Taiwan help cultivate greater mutual understanding and cooperation among young people.

