



Headline

Taiwan terminates diplomatic relations with Solomon Islands and Kiribati

President Tsai Ing-wen stated the government sincerely regrets and strongly condemns the Solomon Islands' decision to establish diplomatic relations with China following the announcement of Taiwan's termination of diplomatic relations with the Solomon Islands.

In regard to the termination of diplomatic relations between Taiwan and Kiribati, our government was fully aware of the situation and we truly regret the Kiribati government's decision.



Tsai said China is using financial and political pressure to suppress Taiwan's space. This poses a threat to the country and represents a brazen challenge to the international order. Tsai added, Taiwan declines to engage in dollar diplomacy to satisfy unreasonable demands and it will never bow to China's bullying and interference.

China are attempting to use these acts of suppression to tell the people of Taiwan that we cannot buy fighter jets or support Hong Kong, and that we can only choose a president who will bow to them. On behalf of the Republic of China (Taiwan), President Tsai firmly stated that Taiwan has only three words to say in response to "one country, two systems": not a chance.

According to Tsai, the Taiwanese people will not abandon their determination in the face of China's thugish oppression. Tsai said if we give up now, Taiwan's future generations will lose their sovereignty, their freedom, and their democracy; Taiwan will lose everything.

International

MOFA thanks allies for UN backing

On September 18, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) expressed its gratitude for the joint support of Taiwan's diplomatic allies in backing the country's meaningful participation in the activities, meetings and mechanisms of the U.N. during the organization's General Assembly in New York.



These countries called on the U.N. to formulate appropriate measures for allowing Taiwan passport holders access to the world body's premises. The country's omission runs counter to the principle of universality, adding that the U.N. should welcome the inclusion of an adherent to global rules-based order.

Taiwan will continue to promote the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. Several events highlighting Taiwan's many achievements are underway on the sidelines of the assembly. These span key areas such as climate change, SDGs, universal health coverage and youth empowerment.

Society

President Tsai pledges to deepen ties with global Muslim community

On September 18, President Tsai received representatives from the Taipei city-based Chinese Muslim Association (CMA) at the Presidential Office.

Tsai said that Taiwan will continue working to build a welcoming environment for Muslims, highlighting government efforts to strengthen ties with the Islamic world.

One of the world's most widely practiced religions, Islam places great importance on peace, justice and caring for those in need, Tsai said,

adding that these teachings can have a positive effect on society.

The government has undertaken measures to improve life for Muslims in Taiwan. These include setting up prayer rooms in public transport facilities and major tourist attractions and promoting halal certification for local hotels and restaurants.

According to CMA, Taiwan's Muslim population stands at around 300,000, comprising 60,000 citizens and some 250,000 migrant workers. The country earned its highest ranking of third among non-Organization of Islamic Cooperation nations in the latest Global Muslim Travel Index.

Tourism

Taiwan wins tourism prize in Magellan Awards

On September 11, a video produced by the Tourism Bureau under the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (MOTC) promoting Taiwan as a must-see cycling destination won a Silver Magellan Award for the "Asia, Overall Destinations Eco-friendly 'Green' Destination" category.

In the 30-second short, a cyclist takes viewers on a journey to Taiwan's most iconic tourist attractions. These include the vast rice paddies of southeastern Taiwan's Taitung County, home of the lantern festival Pingxi District in New Taipei City and the beaches of Jibei Island in Penghu County.

Taiwan's environment is ideal for cyclists thanks to its highly popular urban public bike sharing systems such as YouBike in Taipei City and its 968-kilometer island-circling Cycling Route No. 1, which was launched in 2015 by the MOTC to facilitate riders seeking to traverse the country.

