

Report by Jaushieh Joseph Wu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan), at the Foreign and National Defense Committee of the Legislative Yuan on March 24, 2021

Honorable Chairperson, Members of the Legislative Yuan, ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning!

I'm pleased to be here today at the invitation of the Foreign and National Defense Committee to present a briefing on Taiwan's diplomatic work. The following report covers the major external changes we have faced in our work, the accomplishments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since the previous Legislative Yuan session, as well as key future directions. Your feedback and suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

1. Foreword

Over the past year, Taiwan has faced an increasingly formidable and ever-changing external landscape, particularly constant suppression and threats from China. Nonetheless, we will continue to do our utmost to staunchly safeguard the nation's sovereignty and interests; consolidate our diplomatic alliances; seek greater international participation; deepen and broaden relations with like-minded partners such as the United States, Japan, European nations, and Australia; and actively participate in global and regional cooperation mechanisms.

2. Major external developments facing Taiwan in its diplomatic work

The global political and economic situation is undergoing dramatic changes. The world remains exposed to the effects and threat of COVID-19 even as the international community prepares to face new challenges in the postpandemic era. International developments will also be influenced by the new US administration's foreign policy. For Taiwan, this will present both challenges and opportunities. The Ministry will continue to pay close attention to these situations and respond accordingly. The most important recent developments include the following:

2.1. China's continuous suppression of Taiwan internationally

China has never ceased its attempts to suppress Taiwan in the international arena. Over the past year, it has continued to intensify its rhetorical assaults and military intimidation against Taiwan. It has maliciously sought to stifle Taiwan's international participation, while its military aircraft and vessels have also been active in the airspace and waters around Taiwan, with its planes intruding into Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ). These egregious acts are a unilateral attempt to undermine the status quo of stability across the Taiwan Strait and pose a serious threat to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. The situation across the Taiwan Strait has become a focus of international concern.

2.2. Inauguration of a new US administration

President Tsai Ing-wen congratulated Joe Biden via Twitter after he announced his victory in the US presidential election. Taiwan's Representative to the United States was officially invited for the first time to attend the presidential inauguration ceremony held on January 20. To steadily enhance our cooperative global partnerships, our two countries will continue to build on our excellent interactions through intensive

exchanges, increased cooperation, and a stronger commitment to the shared values of democracy, freedom, and market-based economics.

2.3. Ongoing global impact and threat of the COVID-19 pandemic

Although COVID-19 vaccines have become available and more people worldwide are being vaccinated, it remains difficult to predict whether the pandemic will completely end. More than 120 million confirmed cases and over two million deaths have been recorded. COVID-19 remains a threat to human lives. Transport, trade, and normal exchanges around the world cannot be restored at this time. Taiwan has successfully contained the virus, but has been unable to escape the impact of the global pandemic.

2.4. Potential issues of concern with regard to regional security

The US and China have just held a high-level meeting in Alaska. Any change in US-China relations will have a bearing on security across the Taiwan Strait and throughout the region. China's enactment of the Coast Guard Law will escalate tensions in the South China Sea and the East China Sea. China has also followed up on its heavy-handed passage of the Hong Kong national security law by revising the Hong Kong electoral system in yet another betrayal of its promise of a "one country, two systems" framework for the people of Hong Kong. Elsewhere, it has tightened control over Xinjiang, Tibet, and Inner Mongolia, and ramped up military intimidation against Taiwan. Given these factors, as well as the continuing North Korean nuclear threat, the regional security environment is fraught with challenges and uncertainties.

2.5. Volatile international economic and trade environment

COVID-19 has severely disrupted the global economy and trade. However, thanks to the concerted efforts of our people and government, Taiwan has bucked the trend, registering positive growth in 2020. Even so, we still face many challenges in terms of developing international and regional trade. In addition to enhancing our role in the restructuring of global supply chains, we must be prepared to respond to the potential economic impact of regional economic integration, such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, as well as free trade agreements signed between other countries, such as the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment.

3. Major accomplishments in steadfast diplomacy since the last Legislative Yuan session

3.1. Increased international antipandemic cooperation has brought Taiwan into the world spotlight

Taiwan has set an excellent example for the rest of the world in its fight against COVID-19. It has worked hand in hand with the international community to combat the virus and bolstered antipandemic cooperation and exchanges with other countries. For example, the Ministry donated an automated production line for surgical masks to the Czech Republic, which launched in the middle of this month following a virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony presided over by myself and Czech Senate President Miloš Vystrčil. We recently also donated antipandemic supplies to France in collaboration with the French public and private sectors.

In terms of global connectivity, during the pandemic last year, the Ministry organized more than 80 international videoconferences and I gave nearly

50 virtual interviews to foreign media, effectively raising Taiwan's international visibility.

3.2. Stable and cordial ties with diplomatic allies

Mutual visits by the heads of state and high-level officials of Taiwan and diplomatic allies have been put on hold because of the pandemic. In late January, I was appointed Special Envoy by President Tsai to attend the inauguration ceremony of Palau President Surangel Whipps, Jr. Our delegation comprised the only high-level foreign dignitaries to be invited to the inauguration. During this trip, we received high-level courtesies and attended several official events. Furthermore, we recently officially announced the Taiwan-Palau travel bubble. President Whipps will visit Taiwan on the 28th of this month—his first overseas trip as President. He will be the first foreign head of state to visit Taiwan since the outbreak of the pandemic. All this is highly significant for Taiwan-Palau diplomatic relations.

Bilateral cooperation projects between Taiwan and diplomatic allies are proceeding smoothly. We have continued to negotiate cooperation agreements with Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras. In collaboration with the US, we held Partnership Opportunity Delegation virtual events with both Saint Lucia and Eswatini, strengthening economic and trade exchanges. Heads of state and prominent political figures from diplomatic allies have publicly and repeatedly thanked Taiwan for its support in COVID-19 prevention and other joint endeavors. They have also reaffirmed their cordial and solid diplomatic ties with Taiwan. For example, during his opening address to parliament in February, King Mswati III of Eswatini thanked Taiwan for again dispatching a team of antipandemic

experts to assist his country in fighting COVID-19. Meanwhile, Paraguay-based GEN TV honored President Tsai with the Friendship Hero (Héroe Amistad) award in recognition of her outstanding contributions, marking the first time the award was conferred on a foreign national.

In addition, the parliaments of diplomatic allies took concrete actions to express support for Taiwan. Parliamentarians from Latin America and Africa friendly to Taiwan established regional Formosa Clubs last year. The Formosa Club in Latin America comprises 144 members from the parliaments of 17 countries, including Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Paraguay, as well as the Central American Parliament; the Formosa Club in Africa boasts 180 parliamentarians from Eswatini and 28 other nations.

In the wake of destruction caused by hurricanes in Central American allies in early November last year, the Ministry contributed emergency humanitarian relief funds of US\$600,000, while Taiwan International Health Action coordinated the provision of emergency medical supplies to support postdisaster reconstruction efforts.

3.3. Steady advances in Taiwan-US relations

Taiwan-US relations are rock solid and advancing steadily. We have enhanced mutual trust, strengthened our partnership through many different channels, and expanded cooperation into more domains.

Shortly after the US presidential elections last November, Representative Hsiao Bi-khim spoke to the Biden campaign's top foreign policy advisor, Antony Blinken (currently US Secretary of State), to deliver a

congratulatory message from President Tsai to President-elect Biden. Having received an invitation addressed to her by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, she attended the US presidential inauguration ceremony on January 20 and extended her congratulations to President Biden. This was the first time that a Taiwanese Representative to the US was officially invited to participate in this most important of democratic events in the United States.

Under President Donald Trump, the US government continued to support Taiwan. Over the past four years, it gradually normalized military sales, announcing 11 arms packages to Taiwan totaling US\$18.31 billion. On January 9 this year, then Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued an official statement announcing the termination of all restrictions on Taiwan-US interactions.

Since taking office, President Biden has already adopted a series of concrete measures in support of Taiwan. At confirmation hearings in the US Senate on January 19, Secretary of State Blinken reaffirmed the US's strong and bipartisan commitment to Taiwan and the Taiwan Relations Act, stating he would ensure that the Department of State acted in accordance with the Taiwan Assurance Act; Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III also emphasized that the US's commitment to Taiwan's security was rock solid. On January 23, the Department of State expressed concern over repeated intrusions by Chinese military aircraft into Taiwan's ADIZ, urging Beijing to cease its pressure against Taiwan and reaffirming the US commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances. On February 10, the State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs made public a photo of a meeting between Acting Assistant Secretary Sung Kim and

Taiwan's Representative to the US. On March 3, the White House issued its Interim National Security Strategic Guidance, explicitly expressing support for Taiwan and lauding it as a leading democracy and a critical economic and security partner.

The US Senate and House of Representatives have shown bipartisan support for Taiwan and, through various channels, continued to urge the US administration to upgrade US relations with Taiwan and back our efforts to seek international participation and consolidate our diplomatic alliances. Both houses of the US Congress incorporated several Taiwan-friendly provisions into the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, advocating the deepening of military and security cooperation and exchanges. On February 18, Representatives Brad Sherman (D-CA) and Young Kim (R-CA), both members of the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, jointly introduced a bill "to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes." The same day, Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) and Representative Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA) reintroduced the Taiwan Invasion Prevention Act.

By establishing dialogue mechanisms, Taiwan and the US have gradually broadened and deepened cooperation in many areas. On the economic front, on November 20, we held the first Taiwan-US Economic Prosperity Partnership Dialogue and signed an MOU highlighting our global economic strategic partnership. The first concrete achievement under this dialogue mechanism was the signing of the U.S.-Taiwan Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement. In terms of financial cooperation,

our countries have also signed the Framework to Strengthen Infrastructure Finance and Market Building Cooperation and jointly participated in the Women’s Livelihood Bond initiative, facilitating regional and global economic and trade deployment. We also launched the Taiwan-US Education Initiative to comprehensively strengthen cooperation in language teaching. On February 5, we held a roundtable forum on cooperation in semiconductor supply chains so as to enhance supply chain security and industrial collaboration. On March 11, our countries issued the Joint Statement on Partners in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) as part of our commitment to building resilience capacity.

Last year, Taiwan, the US and Japan cohosted seven activities under the Global Cooperation and Training Framework (GCTF). The US Senate and House of Representatives allocated US\$3 million to the GCTF in the Consolidation Appropriations Act, 2021, underscoring the importance that the US Congress attaches to the initiative. The first GCTF event this year—an international seminar on Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster—was cohosted by Taiwan, the US, Japan, and the United Kingdom. Last year, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam was inaugurated on October 10; the second Taiwan-US Consultations on Democratic Governance in the Indo-Pacific Region were completed on October 28; and in November, I represented our government in attending the third Ministerial to Advance Freedom of Religion or Belief.

3.4. Continued enhancement of Taiwan-Japan relations

Taiwan-Japan relations are stable and cordial. Japan has shown even greater support for Taiwan in the international arena in recent years,

demonstrating that bilateral exchanges have gradually carried over into multilateral issues. Last year, then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and then Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga publicly endorsed Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA) on numerous occasions, while Katsunobu Kato, then Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare (currently Chief Cabinet Secretary), spoke up for Taiwan at the WHA. The Japan-R.O.C. Diet Members' Consultative Council has also approved several resolutions and 26 local assemblies have issued statements or passed resolutions backing Taiwan's participation in WHO. Last November, the Summit on Taiwan-Japan Exchange approved the Kaga Declaration, which advocates Taiwan's participation in WHO. Japan's support for Taiwan has grown stronger than ever before.

Bilateral cooperation has become more comprehensive and institutionalized, with parliamentary exchanges in particular growing more frequent. On January 20, President of the Legislative Yuan You Si-kun founded a cross-party Taiwan-Japan exchange friendship group, comprising 95 members—84 percent of legislators. Keiji Furuya, Chairman of the Japan-R.O.C. Diet Members' Consultative Council, recorded a congratulatory video for the founding ceremony. These developments will further bolster parliamentary exchanges between our countries.

When Japan hosted the 84th Council Meeting and 50th General Assembly of the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union virtually in early February, Legislative Yuan President You delivered an opening address and Prime Minister Suga recorded a congratulatory message for the occasion. Our delegation introduced the Taiwan Model of COVID-19 containment and

called for support of Taiwan's participation in WHO, eliciting a positive response from the Japanese delegation.

In the wake of a strong earthquake in northeastern Japan in February, President Tsai extended a message of support to Japan and received an appreciative response from Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato. Our countries will continue to strengthen exchanges and cooperation in humanitarian relief and disaster prevention. Meanwhile, Taiwan and Japan agreed to mutually allow the entry of business travelers on September 1 last year, and on October 30, the Japanese government lowered its COVID-19 travel alert for Taiwan.

3.5. Steady advancement of Taiwan-Europe relations

Relations between Taiwan and Europe have maintained a healthy momentum, with both sides continuing to deepen exchanges and cooperation based on such shared values as democracy, freedom, and human rights. Taiwan has become a values-based partner in Asia for European nations.

Taiwan and the EU have diverse and robust institutionalized consultation mechanisms in place. They have fortified bilateral cooperation through the Human Rights Consultations, the Labor Consultation, the Dialogue on Digital Economy, and the Industrial Policy Dialogue.

Last October, President Tsai delivered, via video, an opening address for the first time to the virtual 24th Forum 2000 Conference held by the Czech Republic. She shared Taiwan's antipandemic success and democratic experience and stressed that like-minded democratic countries across the

globe should work together more closely. And in my virtual address to the event, I discussed the Taiwan Model of COVID-19 containment as a demonstration of democratic resilience.

Taiwan and Europe have achieved substantive progress in cooperation and exchange in many fields. During a virtual ceremony on November 4 last year, Taiwan and Hungary signed a memorandum of understanding on a scholarship program that will promote collaboration in higher education. At the end of last year, Taiwan established the Aix-en-Provence branch office of the Taipei Representative Office in France—the only new office to be set up in continental Europe in recent years, marking a major milestone in the development of Taiwan-France relations. During a videoconference with Minister of Health and Welfare Chen Shih-chung on January 6 this year, Slovenia Prime Minister Janez Janša, then concurrently serving as Health Minister, praised Taiwan’s management of COVID-19. The Taiwan-Poland legal cooperation agreement on criminal matters, signed in June 2019, officially took effect on February 23 this year. Poland was the first European nation to sign such an agreement with Taiwan.

The European Parliament (EP) and the national parliaments of many European countries have been staunch supporters of Taiwan. The EP has made an exceptional show of strong support in recent years. Since last October, it has passed six resolutions backing Taiwan, taking concrete actions to express concern over the situation across the Taiwan Strait, endorse our international participation, call for the advancement of Taiwan-EU economic and trade relations, and commend Taiwan’s antipandemic success and assistance to other countries. On January 20, it passed resolutions to adopt annual reports on the implementation of the

Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy, with both reports expressing grave concern over China's recent provocative military maneuvers aimed at Taiwan. On January 21, the EP passed for the first time a resolution on Connectivity and EU-Asia Relations, supporting the EU's development of a partnership with Taiwan under the EU-Asia Connectivity Strategy. Earlier this month, Belgium's regional Flemish Parliament approved a resolution for the first time backing Taiwan's international participation.

3.6. Further deepening the New Southbound Policy

Taiwan has continued to deepen its diverse exchanges with New Southbound Policy partner countries. This has already achieved results.

In terms of economic and trade exchanges, total trade between Taiwan and New Southbound Policy partner countries reached US\$108.48 billion in 2020. The six Industrial Collaboration Forums held virtually last year led to the signing of 16 industrial cooperation agreements and two concrete outcomes, covering such sectors as smart cities, green energy technology, food technology, electronics manufacturing, and disease prevention. Taiwan also assisted businesses in obtaining halal certification and leveraging business opportunities in halal markets on 682 occasions.

Taiwan also registered a steady increase in people-to-people exchanges, with 59,720 individuals from New Southbound Policy partner countries coming to study or attend workshops in 2020. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has caused tourist numbers to fall, exchanges continue to be promoted through new media platforms. A total of 300 marketing and

promotional activities were held last year, giving Taiwan's tourism sector continued exposure.

In terms of resource sharing, through the One Country, One Center initiative and in coordination with eight partner countries, including India, Indonesia, and Vietnam, 119 conferences and lectures, either virtual or in-person, were held to share Taiwan's experience in containing the COVID-19 pandemic. Taiwan also provided training to 88 healthcare professionals from partner countries last year.

As for regional connectivity, the fourth Yushan Forum was held on October 8 as a virtual and in-person event in Taipei, focusing on the theme of "Forging a Resilient Future Together." Former Prime Minister of Australia Malcolm Turnbull and other opinion leaders, experts, and scholars from New Southbound Policy and like-minded nations were invited to deliver speeches and participate in discussions, highlighting Taiwan's determination to continue building a regional platform for diverse dialogue in the postpandemic era.

Several months ago, our government expressed concern and extended assistance to New Southbound Policy partner countries hit by natural disasters. We donated US\$400,000 to Vietnam in October and US\$200,000 to the Philippines in November for disaster relief and reconstruction.

3.7. Increasing momentum for Taiwan's international participation

Owing to China's interference, Taiwan has been unable to participate in the UN system, but the international community widely recognizes that Taiwan can help. An ever-increasing number of nations, including their

executive and legislative branches of government, media, and citizens, are speaking up for Taiwan, underscoring the fact that our appeal for international participation is both appropriate and legitimate.

Taiwan's bid to attend the WHA last year received unprecedented worldwide support. In addition to our diplomatic allies, high-level political figures from many countries, including the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, publicly endorsed Taiwan's bid, while support from parliaments was of an unprecedented magnitude. During the resumed session of the WHA last November, more than 1,700 parliamentarians from more than 80 countries publicly called for WHO to welcome Taiwan into its fold.

Taiwan's cooperative relations with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) continue to advance. Morris Chang, founder of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd., again served as Taiwan's envoy to the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in 2020. Taiwan gained exposure at nine APEC ministerial and deputies' meetings last year, including the CEO Dialogues, to which two Taiwanese ministers were invited to serve as speakers for the first time. Last year, Taiwan attended or organized 285 in-person or virtual conferences, conducted 13 high-level bilateral videoconferences with other APEC member economies, and had its work objectives incorporated into 16 key APEC statements or reports. It received a total of US\$1.23 million in APEC funding for 15 initiatives—the second-highest number among member economies. It also set a record for the submission of initiatives, in both number and ranking. This year, we have already participated in at least 80 events, including the First Senior

Officials' Meeting. And the APEC Secretariat has also agreed to allow the Ministry to send new recruits to serve in its office on a short-term basis.

Last December, the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration formally became a member of the International Cooperation on Cosmetics Regulation group, a concrete achievement stemming from our proactive efforts to boost international participation. Meanwhile, we have continued to bolster relations with development banks. Our government has completed negotiations for the Central American Bank for Economic Integration to establish an office in Taipei and an agreement will be signed at an appropriate time. And in cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), we have launched three technological collaboration projects designed to help Taiwanese businesses and banks develop potential business opportunities in the EBRD's markets of operation.

3.8. Taking proactive steps to make our voice heard internationally

The Ministry continues to employ a variety of approaches to speak up and let Taiwan's voice be heard throughout the world. Last year, I gave nearly 50 interviews to CNN, Fox News, and other mainstream media outlets from such countries as the US, the UK, and Japan. In collaboration with the Discovery Channel, we produced and broadcasted programs featuring Taiwan's agricultural and biomedical technologies, attracting about eight million views. We also provided assistance to journalists dispatched or relocated to Taiwan by the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and other prominent international media, helping increase Taiwan's visibility.

The Ministry's official Facebook page has attracted more than 210,000 followers since its launch, and the Facebook pages of our overseas missions have a combined total of nearly 540,000 followers. The 103 Facebook accounts and 224 websites of these overseas missions help promote our various bids to participate in international organizations. Meanwhile, our official Twitter account has reached more than 140 million users, effectively raising Taiwan's international visibility.

4. Further advancing steadfast diplomacy

Today, we face a complex international landscape and formidable challenges. The Ministry will continue to forge ahead with steadfast diplomacy, focusing on the following priorities:

4.1. Consolidating ties with diplomatic allies

We are making a concerted effort to consolidate relations with diplomatic allies. Once the pandemic has eased, we will continue to promote high-level mutual visits and conduct bilateral initiatives in even more domains. We will work with the US and other key friendly countries to support diplomatic allies; however, Taiwan will not engage in pointless checkbook diplomacy competitions with China.

4.2. Deepening relations with like-minded and friendly nations

We will make good use of the favorable international climate, align with friendly forces worldwide, and continue to bolster substantive ties and expand the scope of cooperation with such like-minded nations as the United States, Japan, European countries, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, jointly countering threats and challenges and advancing regional peace, stability, and prosperity.

4.3. Increasing international participation and making proactive contributions

Based on the principles of professionalism, pragmatism, and making contributions, we will combine public- and private-sector resources and strengths to seek greater international participation, while safeguarding our rights and interests in organizations to which we already belong. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry has actively sought to participate in related WHO meetings and mechanisms and worked with friendly nations to contain the disease, making concrete contributions to global antipandemic efforts.

4.4. Strengthening implementation of the New Southbound Policy

To implement this policy, our government is focusing on four pillars: economic and trade cooperation, human resource exchanges, resource sharing, and regional connectivity. Taiwan's soft power is creating new mutually beneficial cooperation models as we seek to make substantive contributions to regional prosperity and development.

4.5. Endeavoring to join regional economic integration mechanisms and strengthening regional cooperation

Our government is fully committed to joining regional economic integration mechanisms, our highest priority being the CPTPP. I regularly convene ad hoc committee meetings to discuss our efforts and will continue to actively seek the support of CPTPP members through bilateral and multilateral channels.

4.6. Making our voice heard internationally

We continue to employ diverse approaches toward speaking out among the international community so that the world can gain a better understanding of and extend greater support to Taiwan. In particular, we will strengthen our use of new media platforms as we demonstrate the positive impact of public diplomacy.

4.7. Fulfilling our international responsibilities

Taiwan continues to work closely with like-minded nations to counter challenges and threats. We will also further implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals so as to make greater contributions to the global community. Taiwan will staunchly uphold the worldwide consensus on maintaining the status quo of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and safeguard the values of freedom and democracy and the rules-based international order.

4.8. Improving public services and facilitating greater travel convenience

The Ministry will continue to improve public services and facilitate greater travel convenience. Taiwanese nationals are granted visa exemptions, landing visas, or electronic visas by 170 countries and territories, and can enter many of these countries via automated customs clearance systems. Colleagues at our overseas missions will continue to provide a wide range of services to expatriates. On January 11, we launched a new version of our passport, which has an updated cover design that makes Taiwanese citizenship more easily identifiable, thereby enhancing citizens' travel rights and convenience. More than 50,000 new passports have since been issued. On February 1, electronic counter services were introduced to

streamline passport application procedures, eliciting a warm response from the public.

5. Conclusion

I would like to once again thank the Legislative Yuan and the distinguished Members of the Committee for the support and encouragement you give to the Ministry. Despite the rapidly changing international landscape, the challenges and threats to regional security, and China's continued suppression of Taiwan, the Ministry will continue to forge ahead with our work in the true spirit of steadfast diplomacy. We will safeguard Taiwan's sovereignty, dignity, rights, and interests, and show the world Taiwan's vitality, professionalism, and resilience. We very much look forward to your continued support and assistance. Thank you!