

**Foreign Policy Report, 8th Congress of the Legislative Yuan, 6th  
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## **I. Foreword**

Honorable Chair and Members of the Legislative Yuan's Foreign and National Defense Committee: Good morning!

It is an honor to be here today to deliver a briefing to the Foreign and National Defense Committee on the work that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) has undertaken of late. On behalf of MOFA, I would like to extend my appreciation to President Wang Jin-pyng, Vice President Hung Hsiu-chu, and all other members of the Legislative Yuan for the advice provided and concern shown over our foreign affairs, as well as for their enthusiastic participation in parliamentary diplomacy.

In recent years, the government has been implementing the viable diplomacy policy, consolidating friendships with our diplomatic partners, bolstering substantive ties with countries with which we do not enjoy formal ties, increasing our involvement in international affairs, promoting people-to-people diplomacy, and improving our services to the public.

In addition, we have also worked to create an international environment conducive to the nation's economic development by seeking to sign free trade agreements with our major trade partners and to take part in regional economic integration. As concerns regional security, we hold that conflicts should be resolved peaceably and rationally, and call on related parties to

shelve controversies and increase dialogue so as to maintain regional peace and stability.

Over the past six months, we have held high-level visits and exchanges to improve relations with many nations and have made greater efforts on the public diplomacy front. Thanks to these efforts, we have seen the following results:

In April, Vice President Wu Den-yih attended the canonization of Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II; Taiwan and the United States held the eighth round of TIFA talks in Washington, D.C.; Gina McCarthy, head of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), visited Taiwan; and Slovakia became the 11th country to sign a youth working holiday scheme with the ROC.

In May, the ROC attended the World Health Assembly (WHA) for the sixth consecutive year and Mr. Mahathir bin Mohamad, former Prime Minister of Malaysia, visited Taiwan. In June, Premier Jiang Yi-huah attended the inauguration of the President of El Salvador. The following month saw President Ma Ying-jeou visit Panama and El Salvador. First Lady Chow Mei-ching, meanwhile, led the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra to Estonia, Latvia, and Finland. In late July, the First Lady traveled to an exhibit of National Palace Museum items at the Tokyo National Museum in Japan. In August, the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Justice approved a decision to extradite Zain Dean, a British citizen, to Taiwan to serve out a sentence. In September, eight

delegations from the Ministry's 2014 International Youth Ambassador Exchange Program visited 36 cities in 32 countries. The delegations consisted of 128 students from 112 tertiary institutions across Taiwan.

These results have come through the efforts of all of society. What follows reports on the international situation, achievements seen under viable diplomacy, and our vision and direction for foreign policy moving forward. I look forward to hearing your comments and feedback.

## **II. The current international landscape**

### **A. Resurgence of ambiguities in the East and South China seas**

Following Japan's nationalization of the Diaoyutai Islands in September 2012, intense anti-Japan movements broke out in 20 cities in mainland China. In July 2013, mainland coast guard vessels began patrolling the waters around the islands. In November of that year, the mainland established the East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ), which led to greater regional tension.

In late May this year, mainland China and Russia conducted in joint exercises northwest of the Diaoyutai Islands, while in late June, mainland China attended—for the first time—the US-led Rim of the Pacific Exercise near Hawaii.

On August 1, Japan announced that it would name 158 currently nameless islands in the East China Sea, including some appertaining to

the Diaoyutai Islands. In response, this ministry lodged a strong protest and reiterated that such moves by Japan are both illegal and invalid. We have also called on Japan to exercise restraint.

With the US implementing its pivot to Asia, its cooperation on security matters with Japan grows ever-stronger, and Japan has lifted its self-imposed ban on self-defense. Mainland China and Russia, meanwhile, have increased their interactions, and the East China Sea will continue to warrant close attention.

Concerning the South China Sea, mainland China's setting up of an oil rig near the Paracel Islands in May triggered riots in Vietnam. These caused great financial losses for Taiwan businesses that have invested in Vietnam. Meanwhile, the Philippines filed suit in the International Court of Justice against mainland China in January 2013 concerning the latter's territorial claims in the South China Sea. The mainland has rejected this move, refused to participate in the Court's arbitration, and called on the Philippines to come to some sort of settlement through bilateral negotiations.

In remarks delivered at the 2014 Shangri-La Dialogue in May, United States Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel reiterated the US commitment to its rebalance to Asia, and stated that the US would not comply with the mainland's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) over the East China Sea. He also expressed concern for mainland China's "destabilizing,

unilateral actions" in making territorial claims in the South China Sea. Lieutenant General Wang Guanzhong, Deputy Chief of the People's Liberation Army General Staff, replied by elaborating on "Major Power Perspectives on Peace and Security in Asia and the Pacific."

The US and mainland China are at odds with each other regarding sovereignty claims in the South China Sea, which are being promoted aggressively by the parties concerned. As such, there is no sign that a settlement lies in the offing.

In July, Michael Fuchs, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Strategy and Multilateral Affairs in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, urged all claimant states to put a voluntary freeze on actions that would escalate the dispute and create instability. He also put forth three concrete proposals.

In mid-July, mainland China withdrew its oil rig from near the Paracel Islands. In August, the Philippines proposed the Triple Action Plan at the 47th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, aiming to resolve regional territorial disputes.

This ministry will continue to pay attention to the issue of peace and stability in the South China Sea. We hope that territorial confrontations in this area can be solved on the basis of the principles and spirit of the East China Sea Peace Initiative so that freedom of navigation through

the region can be secured and economic development maintained.

### **B. Civil unrest in Ukraine leads to a deterioration in Russia's relationship with the EU and the US**

In late February, political turmoil in Ukraine led to pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich's being ousted by the Ukrainian parliament, and the pro-Western opposition leader Arseniy Yatsenyuk's becoming acting prime minister of the interim government.

The situation continued to develop, with Russia annexing the Crimean Peninsula, and the provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine seceding from the country. This aroused the US and EU member states to action, and they placed sanctions on Russia in the areas of energy, national defense, and finance.

While Petro Poroshenko was elected President of Ukraine on May 25, and the Ukrainian parliament passed a resolution to sign an agreement with the EU enhancing bilateral political and economic ties on September 16, a rebellion in the seceded provinces continues, leading to a tenuous situation.

The Ukrainian crisis has greatly affected international relations and the global balance of power in the post-Cold War era. The drastic deterioration of its relations with the EU and the US has prompted Russia to increase cooperation and interaction with mainland China. In



mid-May, Russian President Vladimir Putin visited mainland China, and the two countries signed a 30-year natural gas supply contract in addition to agreeing to cooperate on other projects.

When US President Barack Obama visited Estonia and attended a NATO summit in early September, Putin made a seven-point ceasefire proposal to the Ukrainian government in a bid to end the months-long conflict. Although the two sides reached an agreement on September 5, the US and the EU implemented further sanctions on Russia in a bid to ensure the truce would hold.

This ministry will continue to keep an attentive eye on the situation in Ukraine, and maintain close contact with our citizens, including residents, travelers, and students in that country, with contingency plans being in place to ensure their safety.

### **C. Turmoil in the Middle East and North Africa**

In recent months, the situation in the Middle East has been fluid. Conditions in Iraq have greatly deteriorated: Following the establishment of the Islamic State in the Levant (ISIL) on June 29 after the group had occupied territory in Iraq and Syria, a serious humanitarian crisis broke out with the rebels' persecution of minority ethnic groups in northern Iraq.

The United Nations Security Council severely condemned the actions

of ISIL on August 5. US President Barack Obama ordered air strikes on ISIL targets, started humanitarian rescues, and announced the escalation of bombings on ISIL on the 13th anniversary of the September 11 attacks. He also sent more military advisors to Iraq and launched joint attacks with Arab nations on ISIL while also working to cut off the organization's financial resources.

More than 2,000 people died in clashes in Gaza between Israel and Palestine that began in July. The crisis was temporarily resolved with a ceasefire brokered by Egypt taking effect on August 26.

In North Africa, the results of the Libyan Council of Deputies election were announced on July 23. Of the 200 seats up for election, 188 were announced, with the remainder requiring a runoff. The General National Congress, previously the country's highest legislative authority, officially remanded power to the Council of Deputies on August 4. Yet Libya's domestic situation remains unstable, which has caused the US to issue warnings of a deteriorating situation.

This ministry will remain watchful of developments in the Middle East and North Africa, and their influence on the world and Taiwan. We will also adopt necessary measures, including providing our nationals with up-to-date travel advisories, to cope with any changes.

### **III. Accomplishments of viable diplomacy**

Over the last half-year, the government has continued to press forward with diplomatic efforts based on viable diplomacy, the result of which has been a substantial improvement in relations with diplomatic partners, other nations, and international organizations, including:

#### **A. Consolidated ties with diplomatic partners**

##### **(1) Enhanced high-level visits and solidified friendships**

- i. From April 26 to 30, Vice President Wu Den-yih led a delegation to the Vatican to attend the canonization of Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II.
- ii. Premier Jiang Yi-huah, acting as the President's special envoy, attended the June 1 inauguration of El Salvadoran President Salvador Sánchez Cerén, and was warmly received by the host country.
- iii. President Ma attended the inauguration of Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela on July 1 and visited El Salvador. He was warmly received by both countries and the trip was quite fruitful.
- iv. In April, Minister of National Defense Yen Ming led a delegation to the birthday celebration of Swaziland's King Mswati III. In early July, Minister of Health and Welfare Chiu Wen-ta led a delegation to participate in the Independence Day celebrations of Solomon Islands. Environmental Protection Administration Minister Wei Kuo-yen, meanwhile, travelled to Kiribati to attend a

celebration of the nation's 35th independence anniversary.

- v. Since March, a number of heads of state and other high-ranking officials of our diplomatic partners have led delegations to Taiwan. They include Haitian President Michel Joseph Martelly; Kiribati President Anote Tong, First Lady Nei Meme, and Vice President Teima Onorio; Swazi Prime Minister Barnabas Sibusiso Dlamini and Madame Jane G. Dlamini; Deputy Prime Minister Gaspar Vega of Belize; Oscar Alberto González Daher, President of the Senate of Paraguay, and Juan Bartolomé Ramírez Brizuela, President of the Paraguayan Chamber of Deputies; Alcino Martinho de Barros Pinto, President of the São Tomé and Príncipe National Assembly; Paula Rodríguez, President of the Central American Parliament; Chief Mgwagwa Gamedze, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation & International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Swaziland; Pierre-Duly Brutus, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Haiti; Natália Pedro da Costa Umbelina Neto, Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe; Yipéné Djibrill Bassolé, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Burkina Faso; and Michael Kabua, Chairman of the Government Caucus of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. These visits have strengthened

mutual understanding and improved bilateral relations.

(2) Interactions with diplomatic partners

i. In the Asia-Pacific region

In 2010, President Ma Ying-jeou visited the six ROC diplomatic partners in the Pacific, and announced six cooperative projects in the areas of medicine, fisheries, vocational training, food security, green energy, and culture. These are all areas of focus of aid programs for diplomatic partners in the Asia-Pacific.

The ROC's six diplomatic partners in the Pacific have actively supported our bids to join the WHA and other international organizations. The ROC is co-hosting the Pacific Islands Leadership Program with the US-based East-West Center. Over five years, the program will provide instruction in leadership skills and government administration to 125 young leaders from around the region and increase their understanding of our economic and political development. In July, this ministry dispatched personnel to Palau to attend a meeting following this year's Pacific Islands Forum to further enhance cooperation with our partners.

ii. In Europe

The Holy See is our only diplomatic partner in Europe. We have enjoyed diplomatic ties for 72 years. The Holy See

expanded its diplomatic presence by one member in 2012, and has agreed to rebuild its embassy at the current site.

In March 2013, President Ma and the First Lady attended the installation of Pope Francis. In April this year, Vice President Wu Den-yih and Madame Wu attended the canonization of Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II. These visits have indicated the firmness of our two country's relations. High-ranking officials at the Holy See maintain close contact with our embassy there, and we have been involved actively in a variety of Vatican-backed humanitarian aid and philanthropic medical efforts. We thus enjoy a solid partnership.

iii. With diplomatic partners in Africa

The ROC has three diplomatic partners in Africa: Burkina Faso, São Tomé and Príncipe, and the Kingdom of Swaziland. Diplomatic ties with each of these countries are strong. We continue to cooperate in the areas of politics, trade, science, education, culture, and medicine by providing scholarships and engaging in frequent mutual visits. Our partners are also firm in their support for our bids to attend meetings of specialized agencies of the UN by speaking out for us at appropriate times. São Tomé and Príncipe President Manuel Pinto da Costa, meanwhile, is scheduled to visit the ROC in early 2015.

#### iv. Interactions with diplomatic partners in Latin America

We enjoy stable, friendly ties with our 12 diplomatic partners in Latin America. Mutual visits of high-ranking officials occur frequently. We have implemented programs to help them improve traffic, security, housing, agricultural and fisheries, medical service, drinking water, disaster prevention, infrastructure, tourism, organizational operations, vocational training, and green energy, and our efforts have been lauded by their people regardless of political inclination.

In addition, through the La Comisión Mixta de Cooperación entre la República de China (Taiwan) y Países del Istmo Centroamericano (Mixed Commission for Cooperation between Countries of the Central American Isthmus and the ROC) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, we have infused resources and funds so that we may participate in Central American Integration System-sanctioned projects. A great deal has been accomplished as a result.

Looking ahead, we will help our diplomatic partners explore opportunities their products might have in our or other Asia-Pacific markets as a way of bolstering their economic development. We will also continue to help with natural

disaster recovery by providing in-kind support, including rice. We will continue to support mutual visits by high-ranking officials with our 12 diplomatic partners in the area, while we request that they speak up for us in the international arena vis-à-vis our participation in UN specialized agencies.

## **B. Strengthened substantive relations with other countries**

### **(1) The United States**

- i. The United States of America sent a Cabinet official to visit the ROC, and established a partnership on environmental cooperation: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy visited Taiwan from April 13 to 15. During her visit, the two sides announced the establishment of the International Environmental Partnership program. This was the first time Cabinet-level officials from both countries had ever made a public statement of the establishment of a partnership on a practical issue. This highlights the high degree of trust that exists between the two countries.
- ii. In a speech at the East-West Center in Hawaii on August 13, US Secretary of State John Kerry praised the Taiwan-Japan fishery agreement signed in 2013 as a prime example of how to resolve conflict. This affirmation is welcomed by the ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- iii. The US publicly affirmed the contribution toward regional stability of the ROC's East China Sea Peace Initiative:
  - (i) In testimony before the US Senate Foreign Relations



Committee Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs in April, US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel R. Russel pointed out that the US affirmed the ROC's peaceful, practical dealings with other countries over maritime conflicts based on the East China Sea Peace Initiative. He also mentioned that the fishery agreement signed between Taiwan and Japan, and Taiwan's efforts to resolve fishery conflicts with the Philippines were models of how to resolve maritime disputes peacefully.

(ii) At the end of May, in a speech at a meeting of the Asia Security Summit in Singapore, US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel reaffirmed our contribution to regional stability through negotiations for a fishery-related law enforcement agreement with the Philippines.

iv. The United States has publicly welcomed our interest in joining the TPP, stressing our role in its "pivot to Asia" policy:

(i) Assistant Secretary Russel pointed out in testimony before the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee that a critical link in America's pivot-to-Asia policy is strengthening relations with Taiwan. The US welcomes Taiwan's interest in the TPP. Russel indicated in the May 20 hearing that US Asia-Pacific policy involves recasting its long-term relationships with New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan, and island countries in the Pacific Ocean.

- (ii) At a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on March 14, Kin Moy, US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, made clear the importance of Taiwan-US relations in the US pivot-to-Asia policy. He also welcomed Taiwan's interest in the Trans-Pacific Partnership in his written statement as well as his three oral statements.
- v. The US reiterated the Taiwan Relations Act and its "six assurances":
  - (i) In a March speech at the Brookings Institution, Evan Medeiros, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asian Affairs, said that on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, the US should continue to abide by the act and its "six assurances" and continue to uphold its commitment to the ROC people's welfare, security, economic autonomy, and international space.
  - (ii) A US Department of Defense news release of April 8 states that Secretary Hagel reaffirms that the United States' one-China policy is based on the three joint US-China communiqués and the Taiwan Relations Act.
- vi. US House of Representatives passes a resolution in favor of US arms sales to Taiwan:

On April 7, the US House of Representatives passed HR3470 (Taiwan Relations Act Affirmation and Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2014). The act stresses the importance of the TRA and authorizes the US President to transfer four Oliver Hazard

Perry-class guided missile frigates to Taiwan. Ratification by the US Senate and promulgation by the President will make it binding on administrative departments.

vii. Economic ties with the US developing steadily:

The eighth round of talks between Taiwan and the US under the bilateral Trade and Investment Framework Agreement was held in April by Vice Minister of Economic Affairs Cho Shih-chao and Acting Deputy US Trade Representative Wendy Cutler. The two countries will continue their dialogue under the TIFA to give momentum to bilateral economic ties and further solidify the substantive relationship.

viii. High-ranking ROC officials enjoyed smooth transits in the US: In January and June, President Ma made stopovers in the US, while Premier Jiang transited the country in May, both while on the way to diplomatic partners. Both ROC leaders were accorded excellent treatment thanks to the cooperation of the two sides, and the trips afforded both the opportunity to connect in person or by telephone with key US political figures.

ix. Visits to Taiwan by US political figures:

Over the past six months, some 777 US political figures have visited Taiwan, in 76 groups. These included Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Susan Thornton, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific

Affairs; Nerissa J. Cook, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs; Susan Stevenson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; Holly Vineyard, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Asia in the International Trade Administration's (ITA) Global Markets unit; Matthew King, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security's Office of International Affairs; a congressional delegation led by Buck McKeon, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee (R-CA); Ron Wyden, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee (D-OR) and Mrs. Wyden; US Congressman Steve Stockman, (R-TX); former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage; John Hamre, former Deputy Secretary of Defense; President of the Heritage Foundation Jim DeMint; George Allen, former Virginia governor; Brad Owen, Lieutenant Governor of Washington; Susan Ellspemann, Lieutenant Governor of Indiana; and Peter Kinder, Lieutenant Governor of Missouri.

## (2) Canada

ROC relations with Canada have improved since the mutual establishment of representative offices in 1991. Canada, like Taiwan, values freedom, democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. The two sides have bolstered substantive relations in the areas of economics, culture and education, and science.

- i. In June, the Anti-Money Laundering Division (AMLDD) of the ROC Ministry of Justice's Investigation Bureau signed an MOU with the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada on information exchanges on money laundering and terrorist financing.
- ii. The 10th Taiwan-Canada Economic Consultation was held on economic and other issues.
- iii. This ministry has reached agreements with four Canadian provinces on the mutual recognition of drivers' licenses. A related draft MOU between Taiwan and Alberta has been sent to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications for a review.
- iv. In late June, a delegation led by Minister without Portfolio Chiang Been-huang attended the 2014 BIO International Convention in San Diego, California. There, Minister Chiang met with Theresa Oswald, Minister of Jobs and the Economy, Province of Manitoba, and had a discussion with representatives from the city of Saskatoon.
- v. Frequent exchanges by key political personnel and delegations:  
Between March and August, 46 individuals comprising seven delegations visited the ROC. They included Canadian Members of Parliament Chungsen Leung and Chris Warkentin; Susan Gregson, Assistant Deputy Minister for the Asia Pacific in the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development; Mark Pearson, Director General of External Relations in the

Department of Natural Resources; Norm Kelly, Deputy Mayor of Toronto; and the Consider Canada City Alliance delegation. Vice Minister Roy Yuan-Rong Leu of the ROC Overseas Community Affairs Council led a group to Canada during this period.

### (3) The European Union

Under the Taiwan-EU Annual Consultations, we have made progress in strengthening cooperation in such areas as economics, culture and education, science and technology, human rights, judicial matters, nuclear safety, homeland security, and Internet security.

i. The EU continues to pass statements friendly to the ROC: On both February 11 and June 26, Catherine Ashton, the EU's High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, speaking on behalf of the EU, expressed welcome for a conference held by high-ranking officials of both sides of the Taiwan Strait tasked with managing cross-strait affairs. On July 24, she expressed condolences to families of those who died in the crash of TransAsia Airways Flight 222 on Penghu Island.

ii. Establishing institutionalized bilateral consultations with the EU: The ROC and the EU held a teleconference on June 13, touching on culture and education, science and technology, human rights, nuclear safety, climate change, homeland security, and Internet security. The two sides will continue the engagements and

exchanges they already have to further strengthen relations.

iii. Agreements signed with European nations: Memorandum of Understanding between the Taipei Representative Office, Bratislava and the Slovak Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei on Working Holiday Program; three MOUs with Great Britain, including the Memorandum of Understanding between UK Trade & Investment and Taiwan External Trade Development Council, Memorandum of Understanding between Open Data Alliance and Open Data Institute, and Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation between Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) and Taiwan Nuclear Grade Industry Association (TNA); Memorandum of Understanding on Educational Cooperation and Exchange between the Ministry of Education of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Department of Education and Training of the Flemish Community (Kingdom of Belgium); Confidentiality Agreement between the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration of the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare of the Council of Europe; Agreement between the Taxation Agency of the Ministry of Finance in Taipei, Taiwan and the Direct Tax Administration of Luxembourg for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital. In addition, Norway, Ireland, Hungary, Poland, and Italy have also signed individual bilateral economic or trade MOUs with Taiwan.

iv. Enhancing relations with the European Parliament (EP) :

The EP is an important player in Taiwan-EU relations. Thanks to the efforts of the European Parliament Taiwan Friendship Group, the EP passed several resolutions friendly to Taiwan in sessions held by representatives of the seventh parliament. On May 26, when the results of the eighth European Parliament election were announced, this ministry sent congratulations on the smooth completion of the election, as well as our gratitude for the work that body has done in advancing substantive cooperation between the ROC and the European Union. We will continue to strengthen interactions with the EP in order to strengthen Taiwan's relations with the EU.

(4) European countries

i. Mutual visits by high-ranking officials

(i) Trips made to the ROC between March and August by high-ranking officials and other key individuals from Europe: Jacek Kapica, Polish Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Finance and Jaroslaw Duda, Senator & Undersecretary of State of Labor and Social Policy; Pavel Šolc, Czech Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade; Maurice Cummins, Irish Senator & Leader of the Senate; Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler, Member of the European Parliament and Vice Chair of the European Parliament-Taiwan Friendship Group; Carina João Reis Oliveira, President of the Portugal-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group; François Brottes, President of the France-



Taiwan Friendship Group of the National Assembly; Arpad János Potápi, Chairman of the Hungary-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Association; Brian Donohoe, Member of Parliament & Vice Chair of the British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group.

(ii) Trips to Europe by high-ranking ROC officials: Some 16 visits have been made to Europe by high-ranking ROC officials recently. Visitors included Vice President Wu Den-yih and Madame Wu, who attended the canonization of Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II; Minister of Health and Welfare Chiu Wen-ta, who attended the 2014 World Health Assembly; Culture Minister Lung Ying-tai, who visited Germany and Switzerland; former Labor Minister Pan Shih-wei, who attended the 103rd Session of the International Labor Conference; and Minister of Agriculture Chen Bao-ji, who attended a WTO meeting.

ii. Relations with the United Kingdom: Major improvements have been seen vis-à-vis the extradition of British national Zain Dean. On June 11, the Edinburgh District Court adjudged that Dean's extradition to Taiwan was in line with the Human Rights Act 1998. The ruling was upheld by Scotland's justice secretary on August 1 this year. In recognizing our judicial decision on the Dean-related civil case, the British high court on May 23 ordered Dean to pay NT\$9.08 million (US\$300,000) to the family of Huang Chun-

te, whom he struck and killed while driving while intoxicated in March of 2010.

iii. Other important exchanges: In July, First Lady Chow Mei-ching, as honorary chair of the Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra, led the orchestra on a tour of Estonia, Latvia, and Finland.

#### (5) Japan

i. Japan has welcomed ROC interest in joining the TPP: At a June 18 press conference, spokesperson of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kuni Sato expressed Japan's welcome of the ROC's interest in joining the TPP during a Q&A session.

ii. Over 200 artifacts from the ROC's National Palace Museum (NPM) were presented as part of two separate exhibits at Tokyo National Museum and Kyushu National Museum, in June and October, respectively. First Lady Chow Mei-ching visited Japan from late July to early August to promote these exhibits. Japan is the first Asian country where artifacts from the NPM have been exhibited, making this a milestone in exchanges between the ROC and Japan.

iii. Over the last six months, 1,120 key Japanese officials have come as part of 96 groups visiting the ROC. These included: former Deputy Prime Minister Katsuya Okada; former Minister of Foreign Affairs Koichiro Gemba; members of the House of Representatives Takeo Hiranuma, Takao Fujii, Tsukasa Akimoto, Taku Otsuka, Keisuke Suzuki, Yohei Matsumoto, Toshifumi

Kojima, and Yoichi Anami; members of the House of Councilors Shinji Morimoto, Kuniyoshi Noda, Junzo Yamamoto, Hirofumi Takinami, Seishi Baba and Masaaki Akaike; and the governors of Kumamoto, Kagawa, Kochi, and Kagoshima prefectures.

(6) Other countries in the Asia-Pacific

i. Relations with the Republic of Korea: The seventh Taiwan-Korea Economic Consultation was held in August to promote cooperation among small and medium-sized businesses, exchanges among customs authorities, and cooperation on patent standards. This ministry will continue to exchange opinions with the ROK government to study the feasibility of a free trade agreement, in addition to promoting agreements on bilateral investment protection, double tax avoidance, prevention of taxation evasion, as well as judicial assistance in criminal cases.

ii. Australia

(i) We have continued to strengthen our economic and trade dialogue channels with Australia: The two sides hold regular bilateral economic consultation meetings. On June 19, Chang Siao-Yue, our representative to Australia, signed the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Availability, Provision and Use of Invalid Travel Document Information with Kevin Magee, her Australian counterpart in Taiwan.

(ii) Bilateral meetings for consultations and cooperation on economics and trade: The 28th Taiwan-Australia Business

Consultative Conference was held in September in Taichung. The two sides continue to hold exchanges in such areas as energy and mineral resource policies, trade and investment, clean energy, and possible future cooperative projects.

iii. India

(i) Deepening bilateral economic ties: The Agreement Between The Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in India and The India-Taipei Association in Taipei on the FICCI/TAITRA Carnet for the Temporary Admission of Goods, ATA Carnet took effect on April 1. The First Review Meeting for the 7th Secretary Vice-Ministerial Level Economic Consultation between Taiwan and India was held in March in New Delhi; the second review meeting was held in July in Taipei. Both were conducive to deepening substantive bilateral economic ties.

(ii) Enhancing bilateral interactions: Following India's 16th general election on May 12, the Bharatiya Janata Party won the majority of seats, with Narendra Modi to head the new administration as Prime Minister. We immediately sent congratulations to the Indian government and praised its smooth completion of the election via our representative in India. In our congratulatory message, we expressed hope that the two sides would continue to increase mutual cooperation in the areas of trade and culture.

(iii) Promoting cultural and education exchanges: MOFA will promote bilateral economic ties, as well as the signing of the

Memorandum of Understanding between Taiwan and India Regarding Cultural Exchange Cooperation with the aim of establishing a mechanism for cultural exchanges between the two nations.

#### iv. Indonesia

After Joko Widodo won the Indonesian presidential election in July, this ministry sent congratulations through appropriate channels. In an interview with a Taiwan news medium, the president-elect praised Taiwan for its strong production capability, and expressed expectations that Indonesia would enhance bilateral cooperation with and seek greater investment from Taiwan. Taiwan and Indonesia have close trade ties. This ministry will seize the opportunity to continue to strengthen bilateral cooperation on trade.

#### v. Vietnam

- (i) On May 13, Taiwan businesses sustained major losses in Vietnam after anti-mainland China riots broke out. In response, this ministry immediately expressed concern and condemned the violence. We also repeatedly contacted the Vietnamese government and requested that it apologize, provide compensation, and punish the culprits, in addition to protecting the safety and legal rights of all of our citizens.
- (ii) On May 15, an emergency unit was established in the Executive Yuan to respond to the Vietnam riots, with this ministry being tasked with protecting our businesspeople there

and the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA) being responsible for hosting interministerial meetings on securing compensation and financial and reconstruction measures to aid our businesspeople in Vietnam. On May 21, a delegation of personnel from this ministry, the MOEA, and other ministries was sent to assess the losses of our businesses in Vietnam. The data collected are being used as the basis for compensation requested from Vietnam.

(iii) On May 26, the Vietnamese government sent Trade and Industry Minister Vu Huy Hoang to Taiwan to discuss compensation and related compensatory measures with Taiwan government agencies. Estimates suggest that over 400 Taiwan businesses lost a total of US\$200 million in the riots. Since this time, most of the affected Taiwan businesses in Vietnam have resumed operations, with no sign of withdrawing their investments being observed. This ministry will continue to ask the Vietnamese government to maintain the safety and interests of our businesspeople, compatriots, and ROC nationals in Vietnam.

#### (7) Countries in West Asia and Africa

##### i. Russia

Russia's Transaero Airlines had weekly direct flights between Moscow and Taipei from July 2 through September 11. The airline had Mr. Oleg Lobov, Chairman of the Moscow-Taipei Economic and Cultural Coordination Commission, and Mrs.

Lobov visit Taiwan as VIPs on the maiden voyage.

ii. The UAE

In March, Chen Chwen-jing, former Political Deputy Minister of Transportation and Communications, led a delegation to the Emirate of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. In May, Chen Jian-yu, Political Deputy Minister of Transportation and Communications, led a delegation to the Arabian Travel Market 2014 in Dubai. In June, H.H. Sheikh Ahmed Saqer Al Qasemi, a royal family member of the emirate of Ras Al Khaimah and chairman of the Ras Al Khaimah Free Trade Zone Authority, visited Taiwan. In late July, Legislator Lin Yu-fang led the delegation (ROC (Taiwan) - Israel Inter-Parliamentary Amity Association) to the UAE, Israel, and Jordan.

**(8) Latin American nations**

i. Mexico

(i) Strengthening bilateral economic ties: Starting this year, our representative office in Mexico began holding monthly meetings with the Mexican Investment Board. The meetings are a platform for discussing an investment protection agreement and an economic cooperation agreement, and solicit Mexican support for Taiwan's bid to join the TPP. In the first half of the year, Director General Chang Chun-fu of the Ministry of Economic Affairs' Bureau of Foreign Trade and Vice Chairman San Gee of the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) led delegations to Mexico.

Governor of the Mexican State of Coahuila Ruben Moreira Valdez visited Taiwan to solicit investment.

(ii) Exchanges toward cooperation on social welfare, education, and culture: Taiwan and Mexico have implemented several social welfare projects to help youths from disadvantaged Mexican families learn a trade. We have also maintained scholarships for Mexican youths to study Mandarin Chinese in Taiwan. Such are our efforts in advancing substantive relations with Mexico.

## ii. Brazil

(i) Mutual visits by government officials: In May, Brazilian federal senators visited Taiwan, while Deputy Director-General Tsai Bi-chen of the ROC Ministry of Finance's Taxation Administration attended the 48th CIAT (Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations) General Assembly. In June, Legislator Chiu Chih-wei attended the 64th FIFA Congress in Sao Paulo, Brazil. These visits were beneficial vis-à-vis expanding bilateral relations.

(ii) Developing bilateral economic and academic exchanges: In March, Taiwan invited 16 Brazilian businesses, all with annual revenues of over US\$100 million, to attend Sourcing Taiwan 2014. In May, Rector Marcelo Aquino of University of Vale do Rio dos Sinos visited Taiwan. Also in March, the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) organized the Taiwan Trade Mission to Latin America 2014 and a group to participate in the FEICON BATIMAT; both attended trade conferences in Brazil. In May, Dr. Wang Ko-yang, Executive Vice President of the ROC's



Institute for Information Industry, attended an Internet-related international seminar in Rio de Janeiro. These activities have been beneficial to furthering bilateral exchanges and cooperation.

(iii) After a bill meant to improve visa treatment for ROC passport-holders was passed by the Federal Senate and the Chamber of Deputies of Brazil, it was put into effect after being signed by the country's president in May. The law overturns a system that had been in place for the 30 years since Taiwan and Brazil severed diplomatic ties. Now, Brazilian visas can be pasted in the passports of those of our nationals intending to visit Brazil.

iii. Colombia:

(i) We maintain good relations with the Congress of the Republic of Colombia, whose Senate unanimously passed motions supporting our joining the UNFCCC and ICAO for three consecutive years starting in 2011.

(ii) Bilateral economic ties have been enhanced: Colombia's INVEST IN BOGOTA organization led a group to Taiwan to participate in the Trade and Investment Opportunities in Colombia conference held by the Chinese International Economic Cooperation Association.

iv. Visitors from the region: From March to the present time, 28 important guests in eight groups from nations with which the ROC does not enjoy diplomatic relations have visited the ROC. They included: Raúl Plascencia, Presidente de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos (President of National Human

Rights Commission, Mexico) and Presidente de la Federación Iberoamericana del Ombudsman (President of the Iberoamerican Federation of Ombudsmen); William Tito Valle Ramírez, Presidente de la Comisión de Economía, Banca, Finanzas e Inteligencia Financiera (President of the Economics, Banking, Finance and Financial Intelligence Committee, Peru); Álvaro Jana, Ex-Director General de Relaciones Economicas Internacionales de Relaciones Exteriores de la Republica de Chile (Former Director General of International Economic Relations Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile); Guillermo Lasso, leader of the Ecuadorian Movimiento Creando Oportunidades (CREO), or the Creating Opportunities Movement party; and Guillermo Alejandro Celi Santos, National Vice President of the nation's Sociedad Unida Más Acción (SUMA), or the United Society for More Action Movement party.

### **C. Pragmatic participation in international organizations**

- (1) World Trade Organization (WTO)
  - i. The ROC continues to participate in WTO-related talks: We joined 13 WTO members, including the US, the EU, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Switzerland, and mainland China in holding a press conference on July 8 to announce further negotiations on the Environmental Goods Agreement.
  - ii. Guest visits: To strengthen our working relationship with

the WTO Secretariat and government officials from all over the world stationed at the WTO, and to enhance the capacities of pertinent ROC government agencies, in May we hosted Honduran Ambassador Dacio Castillo, Chairman of the WTO's Special Session of the Council for TRIPS, and Panamanian Ambassador Alfredo Suescum, Chairman of the WTO's Council for TRIPS, and his wife. In mid-June, we hosted Director Valerie Hughes of the WTO's Legal Affairs Division.

(2) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

i. Between March and August, officials from the ROC attended a total of 43 APEC meetings and activities, including the Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) Meeting, the Meeting of APEC Ministers Responsible for Mining, the Ocean-related Ministers Meeting, the APEC High-Level Meeting on Health & the Economy, the APEC Business Advisory Council, and the Senior Officials' Meeting, during which we made contributions on many issues.

ii. Between March and August, 12 APEC-related meetings and activities were held in Taiwan attended by important officials from member economies, including Laura Del Rosario from the Philippines and Robert Wang from the United States.

iii. Through attending all manner of APEC meetings and

participating in promotion of regional economic integration, the ROC is creating ideal conditions for joining in regional economic integration mechanisms such as the TPP and RCEP. This ministry has also coordinated with other ministries to introduce initiatives, such as the APEC Free Economic Zones Network, the APEC Capacity Building Center, APEC Economic Network, APEC Capacity Building Center, and the APEC Capacity Building Center, to help the Asia-Pacific region improve in the areas of connectivity, economic restructuring, capacity building, and disaster prevention.

(3) World Health Organization (WHO)

i. Last May, the ROC sent a delegation to the World Health Assembly (WHA)--the sixth time the nation has participated in the meeting. Minister of Health and Welfare Chiu Wen-ta led the ROC delegation and gave an address elaborating on the ROC's success in healthcare cooperation and development. The ROC delegation spoke during discussions on 25 technical issues and held 58 bilateral talks on the sidelines with delegations from the US, EU members, and other countries.

ii. In April, the US State Department submitted to Congress a report concerning assisting the ROC's participation in the WHO. The report called for our being accepted into the WHO using the WHA model. The ROC will continue to

work to broaden participation in other WHO meetings, activities, and mechanisms on the basis of being a WHA observer.

(4) International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

In September 2013, Roberto Kobeh González, President of the Council of ICAO, invited Director-General of the Civil Aeronautics Administration Shen Chi to participate in the 38th ICAO Assembly as his guest. This was the ROC's first attendance at the ICAO Assembly in 42 years. Based on this foundation, the ROC will strive to take part in other ICAO technical meetings and regional mechanisms in the future so as to further bolster civil aviation management and better safeguard the rights and safety of airline passengers.

(5) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

i. The 20th session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be held in Lima, Peru, between December 1 and December 12, 2014. We will participate in an appropriate, pragmatic fashion.

ii. This year, this ministry will follow precedence in helping the Legislative Yuan organize a group to support our participation in the UNFCCC. On August 13, this ministry, along with the Environmental Protection Administration, consulted with President of the Legislative Yuan Wang Jin-

pyng on related issues.

(6) Other international organizations

i. This year the ROC established the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Center of Excellence on Green Productivity. In March, we joined with the APO to host the 2014 Eco-Products International Fair in Taipei.

ii. To defend our fishing rights in waters the world over, this ministry has continued to promote the ROC's participation in international fishing organizations. Between March and August, we sent personnel to the following meetings: The sixth session of the Preparatory Conference of the North Pacific Fisheries Council, the second working group meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and the 87th meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission. We expect to become a member of the North Pacific Fisheries Commission after its convention enters into force, thereby effectively protecting ROC fishing interests in waters around the world.

iii. Between March and August, we sent teams to meetings held by the Asian Development Bank, Central American Bank for Economic Integration, Inter-American Development Bank, and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. By participating in cooperation programs provided for recipient countries by multilateral development

organizations, we are also helping domestic businesses to gain more overseas business opportunities.

**D. Aid for domestic NGOs to expand international aid programs**

(1) Helping domestic NGOs connect with international partners

(i) This ministry organized a group to attend the annual assembly of the American Council for Voluntary International Action on a regular basis, and has held the Taiwan NGO International Affairs Capacity Building Program and the NGO100 International Affairs Training Program for Youth Leaders to cultivate young people skilled in the realm of international affairs and build their capacity to work in related fields.

(ii) Between March and August, this ministry helped the Taiwan Alliance in International Development (Taiwan AID), the Women and Sport Commission of the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee, the Taiwan Chefs Association, the Yu Yun Women's Choir, the Taiwan Chapter of the International Association of Woman Judges, and Business & Professional Women Taiwan participate in meetings or activities in Finland, Romania, Japan, Tanzania, and the Republic of Korea.

(2) Humanitarian aid and disaster prevention exchanges

i. Following 2013 relief efforts made by this ministry, the Ministry of Defense, and domestic charity groups for the

Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan, this ministry has drafted a procedure for extending aid during times of disaster abroad. The draft was approved and took effect July 18. It will serve as a standard for all government agencies to follow in their effort to extend foreign emergency aid.

ii. Between March and August, the ROC donated ambulances to Haiti, and cash, rice, and other in-kind aid to Solomon Islands and Paraguay, as well as helping Nicaragua rebuild in the wake of an earthquake. We also sent medical teams to offer free clinical services in Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

#### **E. All-out effort on diplomacy**

(1) Promoting TPP membership: This ministry has expressed to TPP members our desire to join the TPP at both multilateral events and via bilateral channels. Our overseas offices continue to seek the support of their host countries, in addition to collecting information on economic issues of bilateral concern for response by related government agencies.

(2) Encouraging foreign investment: This ministry's overseas offices have stepped up efforts to promote economic diplomacy, cooperating with other ministries to increase Taiwan's exports, attract investment, and facilitate economic development. Their focus has been on promoting the Free Economic Pilot Zones, international trade fairs in



Taiwan, and overseas trade missions; gaining government procurement agreement (GPA) opportunities and business intelligence in their host countries; boosting export opportunities for Taiwan's products in newly emerging markets; as well as promoting Taiwan's tourism and international image.

### (3) Economic diplomacy

i. Overseas trade fairs: This ministry regularly commissions the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) to organize or participate in trade fairs and business conferences in diplomatic partners and other friendly nations. Through the present, TAITRA has organized 15 fairs this year and solicited business opportunities worth US\$100 million.

ii. Trade missions to diplomatic partners and emerging economies: So far this year, 14 trade and investment missions have held bilateral conferences with their counterparts in the Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Europe.

iii. Holding Business Site-visit Tours for Diplomatic and Economic Representatives in Taiwan: The first stage of the program took visitors to Taichung Harbor and industry clusters in logistics, agriculture/biotechnology, and machine tools. The second tour will take visitors to southern Taiwan to see leading industries there and allow them to speak with businesspeople in the hopes of creating business

opportunities.

(4) Parliamentary diplomacy: Members of the Legislative Yuan have always been supportive of our diplomatic efforts. Between March and August, MOFA assisted eight parliamentary delegations, with a total of 51 members, in making foreign visits. Help included arranging for legislators to participate in World Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce activities in Los Angeles; assisting President Wang Jin-pyng and other legislators to attend a FOPREL (Forum of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments of Central America and the Caribbean Basin) meeting in Nicaragua; facilitating legislators' attendance at the Climate Parliament forum in mainland China; and arranging for others to engage in parliamentary diplomacy in the United States, Brazil, Great Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Israel, Jordan, South Africa, Swaziland, India, and Japan.

(5) Public diplomacy and international exchanges

i. MOFA has actively promoted public diplomacy and e-diplomacy, in addition to establishing the Foreign Press Liaison Office to promptly convey our government's position on and response to important international issues.

ii. Helping the nation's youth create international connections

(a) MOFA has established a task force to promote young people's participation in international affairs, integrated

the youth affairs of various government agencies, and set up the website Taiwan's Youth Engage the World. It also continues the programs Youth Ambassadors Taiwan and Teen Diplomatic Envoys, and other activities to help local college and high school students build experience dealing with the world beyond the nation's shores.

(b) To broaden the effects of the working holiday agreements we have signed with other nations, MOFA has invited related ministries to establish a coordination mechanism and integrate resources so that better services and information can be provided. We also host the International Youth Culture and Study Tour to the Republic of China (Taiwan) for overseas youths to conduct exchanges with their counterparts in Taiwan.

#### **F. Improved services for the public**

To provide the public better service, MOFA will continue to refine its consular work and emergency aid:

- (1) As to consular affairs, we have enhanced passport security design to prevent counterfeiting, with 70 percent of ROC passports currently in use being biometric passports. We have also simplified visa applications for foreign nationals, sought better visa treatment for our citizens from more countries, and improved our document authentication service. Currently, 140 countries or territories offer our nationals visa-free, landing visa, or other convenient

treatment.

- (2) To protect overseas compatriots and maintain the safety of our citizens traveling abroad, especially in times of turmoil or natural disaster, MOFA promptly updates foreign travel advisories. We have also compiled overseas emergency contact pamphlets, overseas travel handbooks, and overseas traveling emergency cards, which are provided gratis to all who desire them. In addition, MOFA operates an emergency call center with a dedicated 24-hour year-round hotline that coordinates emergency aid for ROC travelers abroad. Moreover, our overseas offices also offer emergency assistance to travelers.

#### **G. Better international information**

- (1) Coordinating international news coverage of presidential trips to diplomatic partners:  
During a recent visit by President Ma to Panama and El Salvador, MOFA arranged joint interviews by the Associated Press (AP), German Press Agency (DPA), Reuters, and Agence France-Presse (AFP) as well as feature stories and news coverage by local press. A total of 121 pieces were published in the international press, which resulted in the promotion of President Ma's policy ideas and friendly public opinion in diplomatic partners.
- (2) Promoting participation in international organizations in line with overarching foreign policy:
  - i. In conjunction with Taiwan's participation in the World Health

Assembly, MOFA helped bring about the publication of 63 stories concerning Health and Welfare Minister Chiu Wen-da in the international press. MOFA's missions abroad also arranged for 12 articles in the international press. In total, 75 pieces about the event were published.

ii. MOFA continues to promote Taiwan's contributions by participating in this year's APEC events and arranges for foreign journalists to visit Taiwan to cover Taiwan's APEC participation.

- (3) Arranging interviews with the president by mainstream international media:

MOFA has arranged for interviews with President Ma by international media, such as the UK's *The Economist*, Japan's *Yomiuri Shimbun*, the US's *Forbes*, and Germany's *Der Spiegel*. A total of 17 pieces were published this year.

- (4) Inviting and arranging news coverage by international media:  
MOFA has invited a total of 87 foreign journalists to visit Taiwan to cover such issues as Taiwan's international cooperation, museums and the cultural creative industry, and ecology and environmentally sustainable development. A total of 112 pieces have been published, effectively enhancing the international community's understanding of Taiwan.

- (5) Analyzing international press reports as a reference for policy-making:

As a reference for different government departments, MOFA has collected 2,465 news stories and drafted 50 public opinion analyses regarding major events or issues such as Mainland Affairs Council

Minister Wang Yu-chi's visit to mainland China, the 10th round of high-level talks between the Straits Exchange Foundation and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, the East China Sea Peace Initiative, the Philippines' announcement of the verdict in the *Guang Da Xing No. 28* case, the Boao Forum for Asia, protests against the Cross-Strait Trade in Services Agreement, the dispute over the Lungmen nuclear power plant, anti-mainland China riots in Vietnam, President Ma's videoconference with Stanford University, Premier Jiang Yi-huah's visit to El Salvador, the exhibition of National Palace Museum pieces in Japan, and the visit to Taiwan of mainland China's Taiwan Affairs Office Minister Zhang Zhijun.

- (6) Strengthening publicity on major diplomatic issues:
- i. Concerning the Diaoyutai Islands, MOFA has produced *The Diaoyutai Islands – Sovereign Territory of the Republic of China (Taiwan)*, which has been uploaded to MOFA's official website and is available in Mandarin, English and Japanese. The Mandarin version premiered on CTS and its subordinate channels on August 17.
  - ii. In compliance with the government's policy to accede to the TPP and RCEP, MOFA is planning the production of a short film, *Together, We Can*, to showcase our efforts and resolution to open up our economy to the international community. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.
  - iii. A total of 547 reports have been published by MOFA's journals in different languages, covering a wide range of important topics, such as our participation in international organizations, our campaign for inclusion in the TPP and RCEP, the Free

Economic Pilot Zones, the East China Sea Peace Initiative, sovereignty issues in the South China Sea, and the development of cross-strait relations. These reports help the international community better understand our foreign policy.

- (7) Employing soft power to promote a positive image of the nation:
  - i. MOFA arranged for the Team Win Lion Dance Theatre to tour Latvia, Estonia, Finland, and Sweden from Aug. 14 through Sept. 4, to enhance relations with Northern European nations and further promote cultural exchanges through a display of our arts and culture.
  - ii. In the first half of 2014, MOFA held 19 exhibitions of “A Narrative of Light and Shadow: Female Photographers from Taiwan” in North America, Europe and Australia. More than 80 news reports were published concerning the exhibitions, highlighting the achievements of Taiwan’s women in the visual arts and greatly promoting a positive national image.
  - iii. Three documentaries, “Body Reconstructed,” “Innovation Island,” and “Convenient Truths,” co-produced by MOFA and the Discovery Channel have been broadcast 51 times since June 3 in Japan, New Zealand, and Australia, effectively advertising Taiwan’s technological, agricultural, and medical development and achievements.

#### **IV. Future outlook and endeavors**

As MOFA continues to consolidate our relations with diplomatic partners, deepen substantive, friendly relations with other countries, seek pragmatic participation in international organizations, promote diplomatic work, and enhance the efficiency of service to our people, it will move forward in line

with the following directions:

1. Continuing to promote the East China Sea Peace Initiative as a means of maintaining regional peace

President Ma proposed the East China Sea Peace Initiative in August 2012 when tension over the Diaoyutai Islands had reached a fever pitch. Based on the principles and spirit of the initiative, we have negotiated the Taiwan-Japan fisheries agreement, thereby safeguarding sovereignty and expanding our fishery rights. In May 2013, the killing of one of our fishermen in an armed attack on the fishing vessel *Guang Da Xing No. 28* caused a row between Taiwan and the Philippines. Yet today, the countries have reached consensus on what principles will undergird a cooperative agreement on law-enforcement in fisheries affairs, and are now negotiating the technical details. The results of the East China Sea Peace Initiative have been recognized by the international community. MOFA will continue to promote the principle of the East China Sea Peace Initiative, namely, to replace confrontation with dialogue, and continue to interact with countries in the region so that the ROC may contribute as a peace-builder to regional security and stability.

2. Strengthening economic diplomacy and participating in regional economic integration

This is a crucial year for Taiwan vis-à-vis its work to ensure inclusion in regional economic integration. On the instructions of President Ma, MOFA has taken a dual-track approach, promoting participation in both the TPP and RCEP. Last year, negotiations under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement between the ROC and the US were resumed. Following the signing of economic cooperation agreements with New Zealand and Singapore last year, MOFA, in conjunction with other government agencies, continued to promote bilateral trade



negotiations and bolster public diplomacy efforts to garner greater support. MOFA and its missions abroad will continue to enhance economic cooperation with member countries of the TPP and RCEP, with an aim of inking bilateral free trade agreements or economic cooperation agreements with them, thereby laying a solid foundation for our inclusion in both the TPP and RCEP.

3. Promoting Taiwan's international profile and visibility as well as increasing its international participation

In the past few years, the ROC government has donated money and in-kind aid, as well as dispatched rescue personnel, to Japan, the Philippines, and Palau when these countries were devastated by an earthquake, tsunami, and typhoon. This is a clear demonstration of our commitment to being a humanitarian aid provider. In addition, such international cultural exchanges as the exhibition of pieces from the National Palace Museum's collection in Japan have been received enthusiastically. In the future, MOFA will continue to bolster its publicity efforts, work to expand our international space, strengthen our pragmatic participation in specialized organizations of the United Nations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), increase our visibility in the international community, and highlight our work as a humanitarian aid provider and promoter of cultural exchanges.

4. Increasing convenience for nationals traveling abroad and helping young people connect with their peers globally

At present, a total of 140 countries or territories have granted ROC passport holders visa-free or landing visa treatment, affording greater convenience and dignity for our citizens traveling abroad. Furthermore,

MOFA has signed youth working holiday agreements with 11 countries, which has expanded the international perspective of Taiwan's youth. In the future, MOFA will continue to seek better visa treatment for our nationals and youth working holiday agreements with more countries.

## **V. Conclusion**

Taiwan is located at a geographic and strategic pivot point in East Asia. Over the past six years, aiming at maintaining regional peace and prosperity, our government has been promoting cross-strait rapprochement, safeguarding peace and security in the East China Sea, and creating a virtuous cycle between improved cross-strait relations and better relations with other countries through the viable diplomacy policy. While upholding the principle of putting Taiwan first for the benefit of the people, MOFA staff will continue to implement the viable diplomacy policy, safeguard national development and prosperity, explore space for our international participation, deepen and broaden bilateral cooperation with diplomatic partners, strengthen substantive relations and interactions with other countries, and create a win-win situation.

Given that the government has put a high priority on the nation's participation in the TPP and RCEP, I sincerely hope that legislators of all stripes will work together to promote Taiwan's inclusion in regional economic integration. With your unwavering support, MOFA will continue to make the most of our soft power, strive for support in the international community, work to expand our international participation, and enhance our national image, international status, and influence so that Taiwan may make a greater contribution to regional and global peace and prosperity.

This concludes my report. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Thank

you.

## **Appendix I**

### **Interaction and Cooperative Projects with Diplomatic Partners**

**Solomon Islands:** Fruitful results have been achieved through bilateral cooperation between the ROC and Solomon Islands in a variety of fields such as agriculture and fisheries, medical care, educational training, and infrastructure and alternative energy, and our efforts have been recognized by all sectors of Solomon Islands society. Reciprocal visits by high-ranking officials are frequent. In June 2014, both sides signed an agreement on cooperation in immigration affairs and the prevention of human trafficking.

**The Marshall Islands:** All sectors of society in the Marshall Islands recognize the benefit of bilateral cooperation as well as the donations and contributions that have been made by the ROC. Christopher J. Loeak, President of the Marshall Islands, and Madame Loeak have been invited to visit Taiwan before year's end to further strengthen high-level interactions between the ROC and the Marshall Islands

**Palau:** Palau has long been a solid supporter of our participation in international organizations. During the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) this year, Palau greatly assisted us in ensuring our proper treatment and defending our rights at the forum. Based on the foundation of friendship we have built, our two countries will continue to strengthen bilateral cooperation as we move ahead.

**Kiribati:** In May, the ROC and Kiribati signed an agreement on avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion. In July, Minister of Environmental Protection Wei Kuo-yen headed a delegation to Kiribati, where he took part in the Coalition of Atoll Nations on Climate Change

conference and attended the opening ceremony for the Taiwan Medical Center. Kiribati President Anote Tong spoke at the APPU annual conference in Taiwan in August. President Tong has spoken out on many occasions in support of our participation in international organizations.

**Nauru:** Taiwan enjoys a solid friendship with Nauru. Nauruan President Baron Waqa has spoken on our behalf in many international occasions, demonstrating unwavering support of our international participation. President Waqa also spoke out for us in the post-forum dialogue at this year's PIF, highlighting Nauru's friendship with the ROC. MOFA plans to invite President Waqa to lead a delegation to Taiwan again soon.

**Tuvalu:** Diplomatic ties between the ROC and Tuvalu remain solid. The representative for Tuvalu spoke out for us at the World Health Assembly in May. Tuvaluan Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga places great importance on youth vocational training. MOFA will facilitate the travel of 12 Tuvaluan youngsters to Taiwan for vocational training between September and November.

**The Holy See:** President Ma and Vice President Wu visited the Holy See for, respectively, the installation of Pope Francis in March 2013 and the canonization of Saint John XXIII and Saint John Paul II in April 2014. Both extended their regards to the Pope in person. High-ranking clergymen from the Holy See have also visited Taiwan, including Cardinal Paul Josef Cordes, President of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum; Savio Hon Tai Fai, Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of the Peoples; Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education; and Cardinal João Braz de Aviz, Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

**Burkina Faso:** There are now 22 cooperative projects operational in Burkina Faso in such key areas as vocational training, agriculture, medical care, and solar power.

**São Tomé and Príncipe:** The ROC and São Tomé and Príncipe have accomplished much in 54 projects covering such fields as malaria prevention, infrastructure, medical care, agriculture, information technology, and education.

**Kingdom of Swaziland:** A total of 24 cooperative projects between the ROC and Swaziland are now in place and extend to rural electrification, rural water supply, digitalization of Swaziland maps, a mining program for Swazi students, the building of retirement villages for disadvantaged elders, and a biotech park, the last of which is expected to engender both investment and job opportunities.

**Guatemala:** Bilateral cooperative projects include the CA-9 Road Construction and Extension Project (Section III between Sanarate and El Rancho in Guatemala); 80 tours by mobile free clinics in the Fourth Phase of the Health Fairs Project SOSEP-Republic of China; and a project for four Centers for Justice, Protection, and Defense of Children and Adolescents, and Reinforcement of Metropolitan Area Care Centers.

**El Salvador:** The ROC has assisted in building six sites of the Women's City Project (Ciudad Mujer), which also has financial assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and has provided R-95 masks to victims of a volcanic eruption in San Miguel.

**Honduras:** Based on the ROC's own successful experience, MOFA has assisted the Honduran ceramics industry in promoting the "One Town One Product" project as well as organized overseas compatriots residing in the US to create the Simply Help Foundation to deliver clothes and other relief supplies to Honduras.

**Nicaragua:** MOFA assists Nicaraguan women in finding employment and promotes the Zero Usury Program. MOFA also helped Nicaragua with reconstruction efforts following an April earthquake, and delivered 1,000 tons of rice to people in need.

**Dominican Republic:** MOFA has assisted the Dominican Republic in its Construction and Equipment Project of the Technical Training Center in San Juan de la Maguana and with the purchasing of necessary equipment in Taiwan, as well as promoting the 911 National Emergency Care and Security System and establishing a 911 service center.

**Panama:** MOFA has helped Panama boost tourism through the country's Construction Project of the Craft, Agricultural, and Tourist Public Market of Boquete, and has donated computers to the Panamanian Ministry of Commerce and Industry to help improve the IT system of taxation agencies at the local government level. In August, when the Ngäbe Buglé indigenous area in the Bocas del Toro Province was flooded, the ROC government immediately allocated funds for relief work.

**Paraguay:** The ROC government helps with the Che Tapyi Project: the Construction of Social Housing. After storms devastated Paraguay in June, the ROC government immediately donated funds to help flood victims in Asuncion purchase the necessary materials to build temporary shelters.

**Saint Christopher and Nevis:** MOFA has helped St. Christopher and Nevis in promoting the Frigate Bay LED Lighting Project, the Agro-tourism Demonstration Farm Project, the Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport Renovation Project, and the Police Force Enhancement Project.

**Belize:** Bilateral cooperative projects going on this year include the Southside Poverty Alleviation Project, the Golden Stream-Big Falls Belize/Guatemala Border Road Project, and the Fourth Road Project (Santa Elena/San Ignacio Bypass).

**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:** Bilateral cooperative projects this year include the Purchase of Critical Equipment for the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital, funding of the Changhua Christian Hospital Medical Team, the YES Program, the Langley Park River Basin Rehabilitation, the Rehabilitation of Roads, and the Upgrading of the Fire Service.

**Saint Lucia:** MOFA subsidizes the Changhua Christian Hospital Medical Team for periodic free mobile clinics in St. Lucia and promotes the Multi-channel Data Center Project, the Sports Ground Lighting Procurement Project, and the St. Jude Hospital Reconstruction Project.

**Haiti:** Bilateral cooperative projects going on this year include the Reconstruction Project for the Building of the Supreme Court in the Republic of Haiti, the Rehabilitation Project for the First Section (12km) of the Axis Road between Junction 44 and Côtes-de-fer, the Cayes Cereal Crops Development Project, the Operational Plan against Chikungunya, and the Capacity Reinforcement Project for the Seed Production of Rice in Haiti. MOFA has also donated six second-hand ambulances to the Ministry



of Public Health as well as several shipments of rice.