

Foreign Policy Report, 8th Congress of the Legislative Yuan, 7th Session
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Table of Contents

I. Foreword.....	1
II. Current international landscape.....	1
A. Relations among major powers and diplomatic efforts of mainland China.....	1
B. Current global and Asia-Pacific security.....	3
C. International economic and trade developments.....	4
III. Current foreign policy and recent major achievements.....	6
A. Strengthening exchanges and cooperation with allies.....	6
B. Strengthening substantive relations with other countries	10
C. Expanding international participation.....	20
D. Strengthening economic and trade diplomacy.....	24
E. Expanding humanitarian assistance efforts and fulfilling international responsibilities	25
F. Strengthening public diplomacy	29
IV. Future outlook and endeavors	31
A. Keeping pace with the times to foster a favorable international environment..	31
B. Promoting the East China Sea Peace Initiative and serving as a peacemaker..	32
C. Strengthening economic and trade diplomacy and participation in regional economic integration	32
D. Strengthening public diplomacy and using diverse soft power approaches	33
E. Increasing convenience for nationals traveling abroad.....	34
V. Conclusion	34

I. Foreword

Honorable chairperson, members of the Legislative Yuan's Foreign and National Defense Committee, ladies and gentlemen: good afternoon!

It is an honor to brief the committee members on the recent undertakings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to extend my appreciation to President Wang Jin-pyng, Vice President Hung Hsiu-chu, and the other members of the Legislative Yuan for their support and enthusiastic participation in parliamentary diplomacy.

Next I will report on the international landscape and our current foreign policy measures and recent results, as well as our future prospects and directions. Any comments and suggestions would be highly appreciated.

II. Current international landscape

A. Relations among major powers and diplomatic efforts of mainland China

There have been many important developments in the external relations of major countries since last October.

Regarding US-mainland China relations, President Obama prolonged his stay in Beijing after attending the 2014 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economic leaders' meeting in early November. After he met with Xi Jinping, the two agreed to expedite a bilateral investment pact, expand the scope of their bilateral information and technology accord, issue a joint announcement on climate change and clean energy, and seek consensus on military confidence-building measures. This February, it was announced that Xi Jinping would travel to the US in September. Recently, the US has been highly concerned about Beijing's provocative tactics in the South China Sea and assertion that Asians should maintain Asia's security. However, the two sides still have plenty of opportunities to engage in cooperation on global and regional

issues, such as climate change, counter-terrorism, and Iran's nuclear ambitions. Their bilateral relations will need to strike a balance between competition and collaboration.

Japan-mainland China relations have stagnated for three reasons: Japan's attempt to nationalize three of the Diaoyutai Islands in September 2012, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Yasukuni Shrine in December 2012, and mainland China's establishment of the East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) in November 2013. On November 7, 2014, the two sides jointly announced a four-point agreement on managing and improving bilateral relations. For instance, they recognized their different viewpoints on the tense situation regarding the Diaoyutai Islands and East China Sea in recent years and agreed to restart dialogue step by step. Afterwards, Xi met with Abe at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, and consultations between the two sides have taken place on a few occasions, highlighting their willingness to break the impasse. Nevertheless, how to establish mutual trust and handle historical issues remains a key task in their bilateral relations.

In recent years, mainland China has steadily strengthened its foothold in the diplomatic arena worldwide by promoting the One Belt, One Road initiative, which combines the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Route Economic Belt. By the same token, it has pushed to establish the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the New Development Bank (previously the BRICS Development Bank), and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Development Bank.

In addition, Beijing has been providing loans and preferential market access treatment through various dialogue mechanisms, such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the Forum of China and the Community of Latin

American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and the China-Pacific Island Countries Economic Development & Cooperation Forum, thereby expanding its influence in many regions. At present, although relations with our allies in those regions remain stable, we still need to be vigilant and watch for possible magnetic effects.

Additionally, after Russia's annexation of Crimea in February 2014, the United States and European Union member countries condemned the action and imposed sanctions on Russia. To offset their economic losses and garner international support, Russia strengthened cooperation with mainland China and other countries. Russian President Putin met with mainland Chinese leader Xi Jinping five times in 2014 to deepen their strategic partnership.

B. Current global and Asia-Pacific security

As for Northeast Asia, the world continues to follow North Korea's political and nuclear weapon developments closely. However, the six-party talks have yet to resume. Regarding the Diaoyutai Islands issue between Japan and mainland China, the two have reached a *détente* following a four-point agreement in November 2014. In the South China Sea, multilateral confrontations over sovereignty claims, military developments, and reclamation work have all captured the attention of the international community.

Regarding global security, turmoil in the Middle East and terrorist attacks around the world have imperiled global peace and order. US and European leaders worry that these attacks could push societies toward extremism, while the business sector fears they could affect political stability and economic growth. For this reason, international cooperation has put a high priority on counter-extremism and counter-terrorism, with relevant countries tightening

border controls, sharing intelligence, and issuing travel warnings.

With respect to nontraditional security issues, the international community has focused on such areas as Internet security, climate change, environmental protection, and energy, fostering greater dialogue and cooperation in these areas. For example, the Lima Call for Climate Action was issued following the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 20th annual Conference of the Parties (COP 20) in December 2014. It urges all signatories of the convention, including developed, developing, and least developed countries, to present their post-2020 Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) before COP 21 convenes this year in Paris. At that time, UNFCCC participants plan to replace the Kyoto Protocol with a new legally binding accord that will enter into effect in 2020. These international developments greatly impact Taiwan and, therefore, deserve our immediate attention.

C. International economic and trade developments

In December 2013, the World Trade Organization (WTO) held its 9th Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia, ushering in the Bali Package. On November 27, 2014, it also passed the Trade Facilitation Agreement, widely regarded as a significant achievement. In the meantime, negotiations aimed at expanding the product coverage of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA II) and on the Trade in Services Agreement are still ongoing. As these pacts affect Taiwan's economic and trade development, MOFA is monitoring them closely so as to better secure Taiwan's interests.

Regarding regional economic integration, Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) members have accelerated their negotiations since the beginning of the year. US Trade Representative Michael Froman said this January that their talks with Japan on core TPP issues should be wrapped up in a few months. Japanese Prime

Minister Shinzo Abe also stated at the beginning of the year that they could see “light at the end of the tunnel.” In addition, the trade ministers of Australia and New Zealand expressed optimism regarding the negotiation timetable, and many sides expect the talks to advance by leaps and bounds. We must note that the 2014 APEC Economic Leaders’ Meeting passed the Beijing Roadmap for APEC’s Contribution to the Realization of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) and declared that a collective strategic study on the FTAAP will be completed in 2016. We will maintain close contact with other APEC members to keep abreast of related developments.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership members conducted their seventh round of talks this past February in Thailand. Although mainland China expressed willingness to accelerate the consultations, whether members can overcome their differences to conclude the negotiations before year’s end remains to be seen.

Mainland China and Australia completed free trade agreement talks last November and are reviewing the wording of the document so that it can be signed as soon as possible. Mainland China and the Republic of Korea also signed an initial free trade pact in February, with the final version to be concluded at the earliest date possible. This March mainland China openly expressed a desire to speed up trilateral free trade talks with Japan and the Republic of Korea. These developments show that regional economic integration has been swiftly gaining momentum. As such, MOFA is closely watching related advancements and actively seeking to enhance bilateral relations with Taiwan’s economic and trade partners.

Recently the international energy market has seen increased shale gas development and international oil price fluctuations, with their influence on world politics and economic security deserving close attention. As Russia, Iran, and Venezuela depend on oil exports, their economies have been greatly

impacted by the drop in oil prices. This trend has enabled mainland China, the world's largest importer and consumer of oil, to boost its oil reserves and reduce domestic inflation, positively affecting its economic development. Russia, Iran, and Venezuela have sought financial relief from mainland China so as to ease their domestic economic pressure, highlighting mainland China's escalating global influence.

III. Current foreign policy and recent major achievements

A. Strengthening exchanges and cooperation with allies

(1) Enhancing exchanges between senior officials to deepen friendships

Since October 2014, several heads of state and high-ranking officials of our allies have led delegations to Taiwan, including President Horacio Cartes of the Republic of Paraguay; President Christopher J. Loeak and Mrs. Loeak of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; President Baron Divavesi Waqa and Mrs. Waqa of Nauru; Governor-General Iakoba Taeia Italeli and Mrs. Italeli of Tuvalu; Vice President Lorena Enriqueta Herrera Estévez de Enamorado and Mr. Enamorado of the Republic of Honduras; Prime Minister Enele Sosene Sopoaga and Mrs. Sopoaga of Tuvalu; First Lady Lorena Castillo de Varela of Panama; National Assembly President Santos René Núñez Tellez and Mrs. Núñez of the Republic of Nicaragua; Congressional President Arístides Crespo Villegas of Guatemala; Minister of Foreign Affairs Hugo Roger Martínez Bonilla of El Salvador; Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Commerce and Information Technology Camillo M. Gonsalves and Mrs. Gonsalves of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and Minister of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation Alva Baptiste of Saint Lucia. Their visits have helped foster mutual understanding and cordial relations.

(2) Institutionalization of foreign aid to benefit the people of allies

- i. Continuing to implement the three principles of our foreign aid policy:** To help diplomatic allies improve their basic infrastructure, national development, health and educational standards, and living

conditions, we carry out our foreign aid policy in accordance with three principles—seeking proper goals, acting lawfully, and exercising effective administration—and the spirit of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. As of January 2015, the ROC had dispatched 16 technical, medical, industrial service and investment and trade missions, comprising a total of 147 experts, technicians, and projects managers. They carried out 89 joint projects in the areas of agriculture, fisheries, horticulture, animal husbandry, handicrafts, healthcare, water resources management, agricultural machinery, transportation, information and communication, industrial service, trade, and investment. These have benefited the peoples of 31 countries in the Asia-Pacific, West Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

- ii. **Raising transparency:** MOFA has used the Official Development Assistance database to compile our foreign aid statistics and report them to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. A related report, the International Cooperation and Development Fund 2014 Annual Report, is currently being prepared and will be submitted to the Executive Yuan this April. A copy will be sent to the Legislative Yuan for your reference. Our efforts have further improved the transparency of our overseas humanitarian assistance.

(3) Interaction with diplomatic allies

i. In the Asia-Pacific region

Currently, bilateral foreign aid cooperation with our Asia-Pacific allies focuses on six areas: medicine, fisheries, vocational training, food security, clean energy, and culture. Our six diplomatic partners in the region have always actively supported our bids to participate in the World Health Assembly and other international organizations.

Our diplomatic ties with these six allies are sound. Each of their heads of state and other senior officials visited the ROC in 2014, helping them better understand our country's latest developments and sincerity to assist

them.

In addition, 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, enriching their knowledge of Taiwan's economic and political developments in the process. In 2014, a total of 26 students from 13 countries attended the training program, which serves as a good model for cooperation among Taiwan, the United States, and Pacific island nations.

ii. In Europe

- (a) For 73 years, the ROC and the Holy See have enjoyed diplomatic ties, which have been developing steadily, with high ranking officials of the two sides enjoying frequent visits. In October 2014, on behalf of President Ma Ying-jeou, I attended the beatification of Pope Paul VI at the Holy See, where our delegation was well-received with all due courtesy.
- (b) In October 2014, the ROC, responding to the Pope's call for compassion, made a donation of €100,000 to assist displaced refugees in northern Iraq and another €20,000 to help Ebola victims in West Africa. These efforts are just part of our partnership with the Holy See in promoting peace, humanitarianism, and charity. Also, this February, President Ma Ying-jeou sent a letter to Pope Francis, echoing the latter's 2015 World Day of Peace message. In addition to elaborating on Taiwan's many achievements in its role as an international humanitarian aid provider, the president wrote that he was looking forward to further working with the Vatican and the rest of the world to extend harmony and peace across the globe.

iii. In Latin America

We maintain stable, friendly ties with 12 diplomatic allies in Latin

America. High-level visits are frequent. We implement programs in such areas as transportation, public order, agriculture, fisheries, medical care, drinking water, disaster prevention, tourism, vocational training, and green energy. Our efforts have been lauded by their people across the political spectrum. 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 donated material and financial resources for projects associated with the Central American Integration System, making many accomplishments as a result. We have also helped our diplomatic allies seek opportunities for their products in the markets of Taiwan and other Asia-Pacific countries so as to add impetus to their economic development. In the meantime, we continue to provide them humanitarian aid, promote bilateral senior official visits with our 12 diplomatic allies, and keep requesting that they voice support for our participation in international organizations and meetings.

This February, our Caribbean ally St. Lucia announced that it would be opening an embassy in the ROC, its first in Asia. This ministry has welcomed this development and will provide any help necessary.

iv. 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. Our bilateral cooperation and exchanges in the areas of politics, trade, science, education, culture, and medicine continue to grow, as does the frequency of personnel interactions. We provide scholarships that help our allies cultivate talent. They, meanwhile, firmly support our bid to attend the meetings of UN specialized agencies, and speak out for us on appropriate occasions.

B. Strengthening substantive relations with other countries

(1) The United States

i. President Obama publicly expressed friendship toward the ROC and reiterated US commitments to Taiwan.

(a) In a joint press conference held on November 12, 2014, after his state visit to mainland China, President Obama said that the US reaffirmed its “strong commitment to our One-China policy based on the Three Joint Communiqués and the Taiwan Relations Act. And we encourage further progress by both sides of the Taiwan Strait towards building ties, reducing tensions and promoting stability on the basis of dignity and respect, which is in the interest of both sides, as well as the region and the United States.”

(b) Later, in a speech made on November 15 at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia, President Obama lauded our democratic development by saying “Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, they have built thriving democracies.”

ii. Taiwan and the US engaged in dialogue during APEC 2014.

US Secretary of State John Kerry held a bilateral meeting with our APEC leader’s representative, former Vice President Vincent C. Siew, in Beijing on November 8, 2014, after the APEC Ministerial Meeting. On November 14, the US issued a positive statement on the “Siew-Kerry meeting” through the American Institute in Taiwan, Taipei Office, affirming Taiwan-US economic relations and people-to-people exchanges, reiterating US commitments to the Taiwan Relations Act, and again welcoming Taiwan’s interest in joining the TPP.

iii. Taiwan and the US deepened substantive cooperation, and the US openly acknowledged Taiwan as an important partner.

(a) The US publicly recognized Taiwan’s efforts toward helping combat the Ebola virus: Taiwan and the US have maintained close exchanges in terms of medical training and information related to

the spread of the Ebola virus. At the Taiwan Ebola Response Donation Ceremony, AIT Director Christopher Marut publicly praised Taiwan for magnanimously donating 100,000 sets of personal protective equipment. On the morning of December 4, we also donated US\$1 million to the CDC Foundation in the US to contribute to international efforts to contain the virus.

- (b) In a speech in New York on January 13, 2015, US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel openly called Taiwan a partner to the US, saying that “Taiwan is our 10th largest trading partner, and a great example of an economy that has flourished with our security support.”

iv. US Congress has passed acts in favor of US arms sales to Taiwan

- (a) The US House of Representatives and US Senate passed the Taiwan Relations Act Affirmation and Naval Vessel Transfer Act of 2014: The US Senate passed Bill Number S.1683 unanimously on the evening of December 4, authorizing the US President to transfer four Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided missile frigates to the ROC. The bill was enacted after President Obama signed it on December 18.
- (b) The US House of Representatives and US Senate passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, three aspects of which are favorable to the ROC as follows:
 - (i) It reiterates that the Taiwan Relations Act is the cornerstone of Taiwan-US relations.
 - (ii) It requests the US Defense Department to submit a report on Taiwan’s self-defense capabilities that should also contain information on the surface and subsurface warfare capabilities of both mainland China and Taiwan in waters surrounding the Taiwan Strait.
 - (iii) It declares that the US should assist Taiwan in upgrading its

naval capabilities, as well as providing mainland China and Taiwan with the opportunity to participate in the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief portions of multilateral exercises, such as those of the Pacific Partnership, the Pacific Angel, and the Rim of the Pacific Exercise (RIMPAC).

This marks the first time that the US Congress has passed legislation supporting our participation in a multilateral military security mechanism, highlighting that Congress views the issue of backing our military security as being of significance not just at the bilateral level, but also at the multilateral level.

v. The US publicly stated that it welcomes our participation in the TPP, stressing our importance in its rebalance to Asia policy.

- (a) During bilateral talks with our APEC leader's representative, former Vice President Vincent C. Siew at APEC 2014, US Secretary of State John Kerry stated that the US welcomes Taiwan's interest in joining the TPP.
- (b) In a speech given in Taiwan on November 22 last year, the US Department of State's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs Kurt Tong pointed out that the US welcomes Taiwan's interest in joining the TPP at an appropriate time in the future, and hoped that the two sides would conduct joint research into the matter.
- (c) Thanks to the dedication of all of our diplomatic missions in the US, as of January this year, a total of 33 friendly resolutions endorsing Taiwan's participation in the TPP had been passed by the houses of representatives and senates of 24 states and three territories, as well as at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference, creating favorable conditions

for our bid to join.

- vi. Implementation of a new version of the Agreement on Privileges, Exemptions and Immunities:** In 2013, the ROC and the US signed a new version of the bilateral Agreement on Privileges, Exemptions and Immunities to provide personnel stationed in each other's countries with more reasonable and appropriate legal protections. Based on this new agreement, the State Department issued our representative office and branch offices in the United States with new license plates, a measure that will not only enable our US-based personnel to fulfill their official duties more effectively, but also make identification easier for US law enforcement personnel.
- vii. Promotion of mutual recognition of driver's licenses:** Since 2013, this ministry has reached agreements on the mutual recognition of driver's licenses with nine states in the US, and is actively working with other states on the same to make travel in the US even easier for ROC citizens.
- viii. Frequent visits to the ROC by high-ranking US officials:** Between October 2014 and January 2015, 44 groups consisting of a total of 283 people from political circles in the US visited Taiwan. They included Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Co-chair of the Taiwan Caucus in the House of Representatives; former US Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao; Louisiana Governor Piyush Bobby Jindal; Indiana Lieutenant Governor Sue Ellspermann; Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie; the US Department of State's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs Kurt Tong; former Undersecretary of Defense for Policy Michele Flournoy; Lieutenant Governor of Guam Ray Tenorio; and Ambassador David Balton, US Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries in the Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

(2) European Union

The ROC employs a multifaceted, multilayered, and multichannel strategy to enhance its relations with the EU and its member nations. The two sides engage in various forms of cooperation under the framework of institutionalized bilateral consultations, which has steadily elevated relations.

i. Continuing to promote the signing of a bilateral investment agreement (BIA) and an economic cooperation agreement (ECA) with the EU:

For three consecutive years since 2011, the European Parliament (EP) has supported the signing of an ECA between Taiwan and the EU through resolutions included in its annual Common Foreign and Security Policy report. In 2013, the EP passed a resolution clearly expressing to the European Commission that it backed the early signing of a Taiwan-EU BIA. The new Commission took office on November 1, 2014, and the current European Commissioner for Trade, Anna Cecilia Malmström, has publicly expressed the Commission's position on signing a BIA with Taiwan, its most unequivocal policy statement to date.

ii. Establishing institutionalized bilateral consultations with the EU and its member states:

Through a Taiwan-EU annual consultation mechanism, the two sides exchange views on topics such as trade, homeland security, communications security human rights, education, science and technology, nuclear energy, and labor. In addition, we have established institutionalized consultation mechanisms with influential high-level officials in many EU member nations, so as to continue deepening and broadening all aspects of our substantive relations with the EU and its member nations.

iii. Bilateral cooperation agreements between Taiwan and Europe

Agreements signed between July 2014 and March 2015 include: The Exchange of Letters between the Taipei Representative Office in the European Union and Belgium and Eurostat on a trade data exchange

mechanism; the Agreement between the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Austria and Austrian Office in Taipei for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income; the Joint Declaration on a Working Holiday Programme between the Austrian Office in Taipei and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Austria; the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture between the Taipei Representative Office in Hungary and the Hungarian Trade Office in Taipei; Convention entre le Bureau de Representation de Taipei en France et le Bureau Francais de Taipei sur la Cooperation dans le Domaine de l'Agriculture; the Memorandum of Understanding between the Taiwan Fair Trade Commission and the French Autorité de la concurrence regarding the Application of Competition Laws; the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Academy of Civil Service, Taiwan, and the Training Institute of the Federal Administration, Belgium; the Memorandum of Understanding between Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT) and the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI); the Memorandum of Understanding between National Central Library, Republic of China (Taiwan), and Leiden University, the Netherlands; the Memorandum of Understanding Between the National Central Library, Republic of China (Taiwan), and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic; the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Central Library, Republic of China (Taiwan), and the Bavarian State Library, Germany; the Agreement between the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Warsaw and the Warsaw Trade Office in Taipei Concerning the Programme on Cultural and Educational Exchange for Youth; and the Agreement between the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Warsaw and the Warsaw Trade Office in Taipei on Air Transport.

iv. Summary of relations with important European countries

(a) Mutual visits by high-ranking officials

Between October 2014 and January 2015, 42 delegations with a total of 188 important persons from Europe visited the ROC. They included parliamentarians from the UK, France, Estonia, Poland, Latvia, Ireland, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Austria, and the European Parliament, as well as party heavyweights from the UK, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Norway, the Netherlands, and France.

Trips to Europe by high-ranking ROC officials include the delegation to the Vatican I led as a special envoy, and those made separately by heads and/or deputy heads of our National Communication Council, Environmental Protection Administration, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, and Ministry of Science and Technology to attend important bilateral talks or international conferences in the UK, Germany, Belgium, the Czech Republic, and France.

(b) Legal case against British national Zain Dean

Major developments have been made in the legal case against British national Zain Dean. In June 2014, the Edinburgh District Court ruled that Dean's extradition to Taiwan was in line with the Human Rights Act 1998. The ruling was later upheld by the Scottish cabinet secretary for justice on August 1. Moreover, earlier in May, the High Court of Justice of England and Wales recognized Taiwan's civil lawsuit ruling on the Dean case, and adjudged that Dean must pay NT\$9.08 million to the family of the victim, Huang Chun-te. This ruling, which took effect immediately, will apply to the UK, EU member states, and signatories to the Lugano Convention. It has established an important precedent in cooperation on mutual legal assistance between Taiwan and Europe.

Dean has filed an appeal against the extradition ruling, made by a Scottish district court, which is being heard by a higher court in Scotland.

(c) Signing of more working holiday agreements with European countries

Last year, we signed working holiday agreements with Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, and Austria. To date, Taiwan has signed 13 such agreements, eight with European nations. These provide a total of 2,250 places annually for young people from Taiwan to go to Europe on working holidays, helping our youth broaden their horizons and conduct international exchanges.

(d) Other important exchanges:

- (i) Trips by the First Lady: In September 2014, First Lady Chow Mei-ching served as Honorary Chair of the Contemporary Legend Theatre and honorary leader of the Ju Percussion Group on separate cultural exchange visits to France and Austria.
- (ii) The former Norwegian prime minister and Tang Prize laureate's visit to the ROC: In September 2014, we invited Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former prime minister of Norway, and her husband to Taiwan. President Ma Ying-jeou bestowed on her the first Tang Prize in Sustainable Development.
- (iii) Study camps for visiting scholars from Central and Eastern Europe: In December 2014, we held the Culture and Study Camp for Visiting Fellows and Students from Central and Eastern Europe, inviting 30 participants from the said area, as well as the Balkan countries, to visit Taiwan. Engaging these people through different activities, including those that touch on politics, the economy, and culture, is a very effective way of building goodwill towards our country.

(e) European parliamentarians attended the World Freedom Day:

Deputy Chairman of the French National Assembly's France-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group Francois Loncle and others came to Taipei this January to attend the World Freedom Day celebrations hosted by the ROC chapter of the World League for Freedom and Democracy.

(4) Japan

- i. Signing of four cooperation MOUs: On November 20, 2014, the ROC and Japan signed four MOUs on cooperation in the fields of tourism, nuclear and radiation safety regulation, exchange of information for the purposes of border control, and the deposit of microorganisms for the purposes of patent procedure.
- ii. Our Leader's Representative, former Vice President Vincent Siew, held bilateral talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo at the 2014 APEC summit in Beijing in November.
- iii. The Taiwan-Japan Fishery Committee held meetings this past March to amend operational regulations for the Taiwan-Japan fisheries agreement. They reached a consensus on amending the operational regulations for the inverted pyramid portion north of the Yaeyama Islands and special cooperative maritime areas that concern fishermen from both sides. This has enabled our two sides to establish more orderly fishing operations and safeguard regional maritime resources together.
- iv. Important Japanese visitors visiting the ROC between October 2014 and January 2015 include: former Minister of State for Government Revitalization Renhō; former State Minister at Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Yoshitaka Sakurada; member of the House of Councilors Takinami Hirofumi; member of the House of Representatives Keiji Furuy and 11 of his colleagues; and Governor of Chiba Prefecture Kensaku Morita. Significant ROC government figures to visit Japan during the same period include: former Vice Presidents Vincent Siew and Annette Lu, who both visited

Ishigaki Island; wife of former Premier Jiang Yi-huah and Chairperson of the Fair Trade Commission Wu Shiow-ming; and Minister of the Council of Indigenous Peoples Lin Chiang-yi.

(5) Relations with other major countries in the Asia-Pacific region

- i. Since Indonesian President Joko Widodo took office on October 20, 2014, MOFA has continued to strengthen economic and labor relations with Indonesia, and expand substantive bilateral cooperation through various channels.
- ii. Riots in Vietnam that began on May 13 last year caused heavy losses to Taiwanese companies there and jeopardized the safety of Taiwanese businesspeople. Taiwan and Vietnam held inter-ministerial meetings last June, July, and December to discuss compensation for Taiwan enterprises. Vietnam has made a positive response to demands by Taiwan businesses that a mechanism be set up to monitor the steps taken, implement compensatory measures, and make due assessments. The ROC representative office to Vietnam and the Vietnam Ministry of Planning and Investment serve as contacts for regular monitoring and evaluation to ensure that compensation is secured.
- iii. The 2014 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi and his wife led a delegation from India to Taiwan this January at the invitation of MOFA. The five-member delegation called on President Ma, Legislative Yuan Vice President Hung Hsiu-chu, and me. They also visited and shared their experience with local social welfare groups. At a dinner banquet hosted in their honor, I announced a donation of US\$50,000 to the Care and Protection of Survivors of Trafficking and Forced Labor initiative, a short-term program run by Mr. Satyarthi's Save the Childhood Movement NGO to ensure that young victims of human trafficking and forced labor receive immediate care.
- iv. Between October 2014 and February 2015, Taiwan signed four memorandums of cooperation with the Philippines covering trade and

investment promotion, the digital content industry, smart school consultations, and product representation in science and technology education. It also held a number of meetings during this period, including the 39th Joint Conference of ROC-Korea and Korea-Taiwan Business Councils, the 22nd Taipei-Seoul Forum, the 28th Joint Conference of ROC-Australia and Australia-Taiwan Business Councils, the Taiwan-Australia dialogue on energy and mineral resource policy, the 8th Taiwan-Indonesia Labor Conference, the Taiwan-Philippines ministerial-level economic cooperation meeting, and the 8th Vice-Ministerial Level Economic Dialogue between Taiwan and India.

- v. The number of trips made by the people of Taiwan and the Republic of Korea to each other's country reached a record high of 1.15 million in 2014, topping the one-million mark for a calendar year for the first time. (Taiwan passport holders made 626,694 visits to the ROK, and Korean visitors made 524,975 trips to Taiwan.)
- vi. A total of 118 delegations from Asia-Pacific countries, consisting of 1,226 members, visited Taiwan between October 2014 and January 2015. These included parliamentarians and key political figures from Singapore, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, the ROK, and Australia.

C. Expanding international participation

(1) WTO

- i. Greater participation in meetings and taking of important positions: At the invitation of WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo, Taiwan for the first time attended the General Council chairperson consultation meetings for individual members as coordinator of the recently acceded members (RAMS) group. Officials from our WTO representative office served as chairpersons of the Committee on Rules of Origin and the Committee on Trade in Civil Aircraft, marking the first time that two WTO committees were chaired by Taiwan in the same year.
- ii. Active role in the Doha and post-Bali agenda negotiations: Following

efforts by Taiwan and other members, the WTO General Council approved a trade facilitation agreement and a food security initiative on November 27, 2014. It also set a July 2015 deadline for completion of the post-Bali work program.

- iii. Continued participation in plurilateral talks: Taiwan has taken part in a number of plurilateral negotiations to better secure its interests, including the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA), the Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA), and accession bids to the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA).
- iv. Invitations for WTO officials to visit Taiwan: In mid-January this year, Director of the WTO Accessions Division Chiedu Osakwe visited Taiwan at our invitation.

(2) APEC

- i. Between October 2014 and January 2015, Taiwan attended several major APEC events, including the Senior Finance Officials' Meeting, Finance Ministers' Meeting, APEC Ministerial Meeting, and APEC CEO Summit. Eight of our initiatives were incorporated into the APEC Ministerial Meeting Joint Declaration, highlighting our professional contributions to APEC issues.
- ii. Former Vice President Vincent Siew led a delegation on behalf of the president to the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) in Beijing last November. This marked the first time that an ROC presidential envoy attended an AELM in mainland China.
- iii. During the AELM, former Vice President Siew held formal bilateral talks with US Secretary of State John Kerry, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. He also met briefly with President Obama to exchange views on Taiwan-US relations, rounding off a successful visit that saw the inclusion of three initiatives and five suggestions proposed by Taiwan in the AELM

declaration.

- iv. Through attending all levels of APEC meetings, we have actively helped promote regional economic integration, and reiterated to the APEC community our determination to join the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). This helps create favorable conditions for our participation in these regional economic integration mechanisms. At the AELM, former Vice President Siew endorsed the Beijing Roadmap for APEC's Contribution to the Realization of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). He called for inclusiveness and transparency in the FTAAP, encouraged participation by APEC members, and proposed that APEC form a research group as early as possible to conduct joint strategic research on the FTAAP.
- v. Between October 2014 and January 2015, Taiwan hosted six APEC-related meetings and activities, including the APEC Critical Infrastructure Protection and Resilience Workshop jointly held with the United States for the first time.

(3) UNFCCC

- i. The 20th session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP20) was held in Lima, Peru, between December 1 and 12, 2014. This ministry helped the Environmental Protection Administration organize a COP20 Executive Yuan delegation. Last year, 19 ROC diplomatic allies submitted letters to the UNFCCC Secretariat and the high-level segment of COP20 expressing support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the UNFCCC. At MOFA's request, three ROC diplomatic allies—Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Belize—each hosted COP20 side events with Taiwan NGOs: the Industrial Technology Research Institute, the Foundation of Taiwan Industry Service, and the Environmental

Quality Protection Foundation, respectively. Taiwan's delegation held 26 rounds of bilateral talks with delegations from our diplomatic allies, friendly nations, and international organizations, and gave interviews to nine international media organizations.

- ii. MOFA helped organize a COP20 Legislative Yuan delegation comprised of Legislators Chiau Wen-yan, Yeh Yi-jin, Kuan Bi-ling, Lai Chen-chang, and Chiang Huei-chen. The delegation met with the speaker or senior members of the Peruvian and Luxembourg parliaments, visited the Taiwan exhibition booth, took part in a side event co-hosted by the Executive Yuan delegation and Kiribati, and gave interviews to five international media organizations.

(4) Other international organizations

- i. Taiwan received approval to establish the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Center of Excellence on Green Productivity. In November 2014, Taiwan and the APO cosponsored the 3rd World Congress on Green Productivity in Taipei.
- ii. This ministry is committed to protecting Taiwan's fishing rights and interests around the world by seeking greater participation in international fisheries organizations. Between October 2014 and January 2015, Taiwan sent delegates to attend meetings convened by several fishery resources management bodies in which we have membership. These included the 21st Annual Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), incorporating the Extended Commission; the 87th Meeting and 88th Extraordinary Meeting of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC); the 19th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); and the 11th Regular Session

of the Western and Central Pacific Tuna Fisheries. This has helped safeguard Taiwan's fishing rights and interests in oceans around the globe.

- iii. Taiwan delegations attended the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Asian Development Fund XI Midterm Review meeting, as well as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Grant Planning Meeting and donor conference for the Early Transition Countries Fund. An EBRD procurement specialist was invited to speak at an EBRD project procurement seminar in Taiwan, while an EBRD technical workshop was held on green technologies associated with tap water and wastewater resources. In addition, Taiwan organized an EBRD planning consultation and development mission to participate in cooperation programs conducted by multilateral development institutions in recipient countries, which has helped create opportunities for Taiwan businesses.
- iv. ROC delegates attended the Egmont Working Group and Committee Meeting in late January, and served as co-chairs of executive working groups. Taiwan's substantive participation in the affairs of the Egmont Group has enhanced its anti-money laundering partnership with other members of the international community.

D. Strengthening economic and trade diplomacy

- (1) **Overseas trade fairs:** MOFA commissions the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) to organize trade fairs and business conferences in our diplomatic partners and other friendly nations. In 2014, a total of 1,290 companies participated in 23 fairs organized by TAITRA and solicited business opportunities worth US\$142.8 million.
- (2) **Trade missions to diplomatic partners and emerging economies:** In 2014,

seven trade and investment missions from Taiwan visited the Asia-Pacific, Middle East, Africa, and Europe, while eight investment briefings and 31 joint bilateral meetings were held to strengthen economic and trade exchanges during visits to Taiwan by high-ranking officials from our diplomatic allies.

- (3) Business tours for diplomats stationed in Taiwan and business representatives:** Two such tours were held in 2014. The first tour included Taichung Harbor, and logistics and agricultural biotechnology industrial clusters in central Taiwan. The second tour took participants to Pingtung Agricultural Biotechnology Park and Kaohsiung Harbor in southern Taiwan, where they observed our achievements in agricultural innovation and intelligent logistics, and attended a seminar with local businesspeople, helping open up business opportunities.

E. Expanding humanitarian assistance efforts and fulfilling international responsibilities

(1) International disaster prevention and humanitarian aid

- i. The ROC has engaged in close cooperation with international organizations on disaster prevention programs. We are currently working with Haiti and Honduras, respectively, on disaster prevention in border areas and high-risk hillsides.
- ii. Following heavy flooding on the east coast of Malaysia in December 2014, MOFA donated US\$100,000 to the Malaysian government for reconstruction. We also assisted International Search and Rescue Operations Taiwan, and the Fo Guang Shan Cloud and Water Mobile Clinic, with going to Malaysia to help the sick and wounded in an expression of our humanitarian concern.
- iii. In the wake of turmoil caused by the Islamic State of Iraq and the

Levant in the Middle East, MOFA donated US\$100,000 to a Holy See humanitarian endeavor in northern Iraq in October 2014. In addition to working with intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, we also donated 350 prefabricated houses, winter clothing, and food for refugees. Our donations to date have reached a total of US\$8.54 million.

(2) Medical diplomacy as soft power

MOFA and hospitals in Taiwan have launched a growing range of medical programs in cooperation with our diplomatic allies. These include the School of Medicine for International Students program at I-Shou University, scholarships for outstanding youth from our diplomatic allies to study in Taiwan, mobile medical missions, donations of medical equipment, medical training workshops, and hospital referral services. We are building on existing cooperative relations to achieve greater success in our medical diplomacy.

Following the severe outbreak of Ebola in Africa, we donated funds and protective gear, and made it known through appropriate channels that we are prepared to participate in international efforts to fight the virus, and share our medical expertise by integrating public and private resources.

Taiwan International Health Action (TaiwanIHA) has continued to work with the Japan-based Association of Medical Doctors of Asia to offer free clinics overseas. We helped Changhua Christian Hospital go to our Caribbean allies Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to provide medical treatment. In addition, we have medical missions stationed in other countries to provide healthcare and humanitarian assistance.

These examples highlight Taiwan's importance as a provider of humanitarian aid in the international community, a role that has won us

worldwide acclaim and is a definite bright spot in our diplomatic work.

F. Strengthening public diplomacy

(1) Public diplomacy and international exchanges

- i. My ministry has actively promoted public diplomacy and e-diplomacy, and maintained the Foreign Press Liaison Office to promptly convey our government's position on and response to important foreign policy issues and events. The aim is to foster a better understanding of and support for our administration.
- ii. Helping the nation's youth create international connections
 - (a) MOFA set up an online entry point—Taiwan's Youth Engage the World—for youth programs launched by various government agencies. We continue to hold the NGO100 International Affairs Training Program for Youth Leaders and the Teen Diplomatic Envoys contest to help college and high school students become more attuned to the international community. We also host the International Youth Culture and Study Tour to the Republic of China (Taiwan) to enable overseas youth to conduct exchanges with their peers in Taiwan.
 - (b) Under the 2014 International Youth Ambassadors Exchange Program, 128 students from 44 local universities visited 10 diplomatic allies and 22 other partner countries to participate in international affairs programs tailored for young people. The application process attracted record numbers of students and universities. The governments of the host countries praised the youth ambassadors for their excellent performance, which enhanced our national image and bilateral relations with these nations.
 - (c) In November 2014, Taiwan and Austria signed a joint statement on

a youth working holiday program, making Austria the eighth country in Europe (after Germany, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland) and the 13th in the world to enter such an agreement with us. MOFA will continue to strengthen coordination with other related ministries regarding youth working holiday schemes. By so doing, we can better integrate governmental resources, offer more comprehensive information and services, and broaden the international perspectives and involvement of Taiwan's youths.

(2) Heightened dissemination of information abroad

- i. Arranging interviews for President Ma with mainstream international media so as to better elucidate administrative policies (September 2014 to January 2015):
 - (a) MOFA arranged interviews for President Ma with the *New York Times* and the Japanese daily *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*. A total of 16 news reports were published, thereby further highlighting the president's policies and generating positive views in the international community.
 - (b) Interviews were also arranged with Beijing- and Hong Kong-based correspondents from Deutsche Presse-Agentur and *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* of Germany, *Le Figaro* of France, *Global Times* of the United States, *Jyllands-Posten* of Denmark, *Dagens Industri* of Sweden, and other media outlets. Twenty pieces and 10 reprints were published.
- ii. Inviting and arranging for journalists from international media organizations to visit Taiwan to draft news reports (September 2014 to January 2015):

- (a) To boost coverage of the ROC National Day, our economic and trade diplomacy, our campaign to seek accession to the TPP and RCEP, Taiwan's soft power, and our push to participate in the UNFCCC, MOFA arranged for international media delegations to visit Taiwan. In addition to the National Day celebrations, they covered Taiwan's free economic pilot zones and UNFCCC-related environmental protection endeavors. A Southeast Asian media delegation focusing on Taiwan's soft power also visited Taiwan, as did a mainstream Indonesian media group. Others include a delegation from a Portuguese tourism magazine and film crews from Czech Television and the television network Azteca from Mexico. A total of 131 journalists from the international press visited Taiwan during this five-month period, increasing the world's understanding of the ROC.
 - (b) MOFA organized a tour of Taiwan for nine senior journalists who received Asia-Pacific Journalism Fellowships from the East-West Center in Hawaii. They represented *USA Today*, the Cable News Network, National Public Radio, and other mainstream US media outlets, resulting in 52 tweets on Twitter and five news reports in print media.
- iii. Employing soft power to enhance our national image
- (a) In November 2014, MOFA arranged for the Taipei Folk Dance Theatre to conduct a cultural exchange tour of three ROC diplomatic allies in Central America: Panama, Honduras, and El Salvador. It entertained more than 3,850 people, including key political figures and members of the media. Consequently, 103 news reports were published by domestic and foreign media outlets.

- (b) In January 2014, ROC representative offices in North America, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific organized the exhibition tour *A Narrative of Light and Shadow: Female Photographers from Taiwan*, showcasing works by women artists from Taiwan. Eleven exhibitions were held by nine representative offices from October to December 2014. Forty-one news reports were published about the event, highlighting these artists' achievements in the visual arts and Taiwan's progress in gender equality.
- (c) MOFA coproduced with the Discovery Channel three documentaries as part of the *Taiwan Revealed* series: "Innovation Island," "Convenient Truths," and "Body Reconstructed." Between June and November 2014, they were broadcast 167 times in Taiwan, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, and other Asia-Pacific countries. A total of 451 news reports were published about these documentaries introducing Taiwan's technological, agricultural, and medical achievements.
- (d) *The Fierce Wife*, selected by MOFA from more than a hundred quality television dramas, has been dubbed into Spanish and will be broadcast in Spanish-speaking countries and territories this year as part of an effort to promote Taiwanese culture overseas.
- (e) MOFA also published the English-language edition of *Taiwan A to Z*, an e-book introducing Taiwan's diverse society to young people around the world through vivid illustrations and a dynamic layout. Editions in other languages will also be produced.
- (f) *Taiwan: Island of Fish*, a joint production of MOFA and the National Geographic Channel, was unveiled during a press conference at Huashan 1914 Creative Park in Taipei this January.

This fifth installment of the *Taiwan to the World* documentary series introduces our fishing industry to the international community.

(3) Cultural and academic diplomacy

- i. This year MOFA will continue to assist Taiwanese scholars and experts to conduct research at renowned universities, academic institutions, and think tanks overseas. We have awarded the Taiwan Fellowship to 104 outstanding scholars abroad to conduct research in Taiwan, helping nurture friendships between the academic communities of Taiwan and other countries.
- ii. The 2014 Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Festival was held in northern, central, and southern Taiwan last September. Embassies and representative offices of Latin American and Caribbean countries joined in the festivities, which featured performances by professional art groups from the region, a film exhibition, and a culture fair. The festival is a concrete example of President Ma's policy to use culture to reinforce traditional diplomacy, reaffirm the importance of diplomatic allies, and develop substantive relationships through alternative approaches. At the same time, it enhanced Taiwan's role as a promoter of cultural exchange.

IV. Future outlook and endeavors

A. Keeping pace with the times to foster a favorable international environment

The traditional and nontraditional forms of security throughout the Asia-Pacific region have encountered many challenges, such as disputes in the East China and South China Seas, energy security, transportation security, cybersecurity, climate change, transnational crime, violent extremism, natural disasters, and epidemics. As for the international economy and trade, the shale oil revolution has slashed energy costs; two major economies, the United States and mainland China, are undergoing industrial and economic structural transformations; and trends in globalization are changing. All of these factors deserve our constant attention.

MOFA has kept pace with changes in the international landscape and has maintained close cooperation with other ministries and agencies. Building on economic and trade diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, and image diplomacy, we have redoubled our efforts to increase Taiwan's substantive participation in the international community. By creating a favorable environment, we can consolidate diplomatic relations, enhance friendships with nondiplomatic partners, expand our international participation, maintain regional security, and seek roles in functional and specialized international organizations that affect Taiwan's overall development and the interests of the people.

B. Promoting the East China Sea Peace Initiative and serving as a peacemaker

The ROC has upheld its sovereignty claim over the Diaoyutai Islands and, on the basis of the East China Sea Peace Initiative, its commitment to playing the role of peacemaker, while pursuing pragmatic and peaceful resolutions to disputes. Taiwan seeks support from concerned parties so that, under the principle of shelving disputes and sharing resources, the parties can work together to secure regional peace. The ROC urges all sides to ponder how the concept and spirit of the East China Sea Peace Initiative can be applied to the South China Sea and other areas. Parties should institutionalize mechanisms for constructive dialogue, support the use of peaceful means to eliminate disputes upon their onset, and foster effective cooperation to promote economic prosperity, with the aim of safeguarding regional security.

C. Strengthening economic and trade diplomacy and participation in regional economic integration

Committed to advancing Taiwan's integration into the regional economy, MOFA has, in accordance with President Ma's instructions, taken a dual-track approach to seek participation in the TPP and RCEP. Taiwan has signed economic cooperation agreements with Singapore and New Zealand, both of which have entered into force, laying the foundation for Taiwan's participation in the TPP, RCEP, and FTAAP. In addition, the government has implemented a number of measures, such as the establishment of free economic pilot zones, fully

demonstrating Taiwan's determination to deregulate and open up its market, and our efforts to integrate into the regional economy. The ROC will continue to foster bilateral, multilateral, and plurilateral economic cooperation so that it can keep pace with global and regional economic integration trends.

D. Strengthening public diplomacy and using diverse soft power approaches

MOFA is working with related ministries to integrate public and private resources. We have been taking advantage of our robust and dynamic democratic system, wealth of specialized human resources, and integrated communication and marketing concepts. In this manner, we have been employing the Internet and other channels to increase visits by international media organizations and organize overseas performances by Taiwanese cultural troupes. At the same time, we have produced documentaries on Taiwan in collaboration with transnational television channels, and, in line with government policy, micromovies and innovative promotional materials to keep the international community informed of our nation's efforts to broaden our international participation, implement our viable diplomacy policy, and play the role of a humanitarian aid provider. We have been highlighting the nation's strengths, while introducing Taiwan to the rest of the world.

In response to critical world events, MOFA provides timely updates through its Foreign Press Liaison Office so as to improve the accuracy of reporting by international media. At the same time, our missions abroad collect news reports in their host countries for the reference of Taiwan's policymakers. In addition, as helping young people broaden their worldview remains a government priority, MOFA will work with relevant ministries to help ensure that Taiwan's youth keep abreast of world trends. We will continue to convene regular coordination meetings on youth working holiday programs, integrate information platforms and resources, and seek input from our missions abroad in order to provide more comprehensive information and convenient services to the public.

E. Increasing convenience for nationals traveling abroad

The ROC receives visa-waiver or landing-visa privileges from 140 countries and territories worldwide, and will continue to seek visa waivers or better visa treatment from other countries.

In order to bolster our client-oriented services that afford greater convenience to citizens in their daily lives and travels abroad, MOFA has enhanced the security and international credibility of the ROC biometric passport by conforming to ICAO protocols. We encourage citizens to apply for a biometric passport so that we can more easily obtain visa waivers or other conveniences from a greater number of countries.

Furthermore, MOFA has been striving to improve its consular services, provide greater convenience to ROC citizens, and promote mutual recognition of driver's licenses with other countries. We have bolstered measures to assist citizens traveling overseas, set up emergency contact centers, and improved emergency assistance services. MOFA will continue to sign youth working holiday agreements with other countries to better ensure the people's interests.

V. Conclusion

Diplomacy requires well-integrated and long-term efforts. I would like to once again thank the Legislative Yuan for its staunch support of my ministry's diplomatic priorities. These include Taiwan's participation in the TPP and RCEP, international development and humanitarian assistance, visa-waiver or landing-visa privileges from additional countries, youth working holiday programs, and emergency assistance to nationals traveling overseas.

Looking to the future, our government continues to promote viable diplomacy, take comprehensive approaches, play an active role as peacemaker in the region and worldwide, deepen cooperation with partner countries, and safeguard national security. We will continue to consolidate our relations with diplomatic allies, expand our international participation, and sign economic cooperation

agreements with trade partners in order to better ensure our national economic competitiveness and sustainable growth.

MOFA will further integrate public and private resources, while making best use of our abundant soft power, including our democratic ideals, human rights, culture, and competitive strengths in the economy, medicine, technology, and education. Combining these with our hard power, we can create smart power, maximize the nation's interests, minimize national threats, pursue sustainable and peaceful development, and bring Taiwan into the international spotlight, thereby enhancing our nation's image and international status. We look forward to receiving your continued support of and recommendations on our diplomatic efforts.

This concludes my report. Any feedback would be greatly appreciated.