

Recorded Video Remarks by Foreign Minister Joseph Wu for the 2018 GTI Annual Symposium

Chairman Wen-yen Chen, Executive Director Russell Hsiao, my dear friends in Washington, DC, I want to bring you my warmest greetings from Taipei. It's a shame I can't be there in person – as Foreign Minister my travel isn't as open as it was before. But even if I cannot be there, I want to use this opportunity to say hello to you all, and bring you the latest developments from here in Taiwan.

I want to begin by thanking the Global Taiwan Institute for inviting me to deliver remarks on behalf of the Tsai administration. I congratulate you on your two-year anniversary – what a good two years it has been. All of us have watched GTI closely as you became a powerful advocate for Taiwan in Washington, DC. Of course, it is the people of Taiwan who are beneficiaries of GTI's good work, so thank you for your leadership on critical issues pertinent to Taiwan-US relations. I would also like to take a moment to remember the work and inspirations of the late GTI chairman Bob Lai, a lifelong advocate for Taiwan-US ties.

There is no better time to reinforce the special bond between Taiwan and the US. Next year will mark the

40th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, a cornerstone of our enduring friendship along with the Six Assurances. The opening of the American Institute in Taiwan's new office complex this June demonstrated the United States' strong commitment to Taiwan and the close and cooperative ties between our two peoples.

As the Trump administration carries out its strategy for Asia, Taiwan stands as an ideal partner for like-minded countries in the pursuit of a free and open Indo-Pacific. As Secretary Pompeo rightly pointed out, Taiwan's economic development went hand-in-hand with creating an open and democratic society that blossomed into a high-tech powerhouse. We have much to offer in the Indo-Pacific region, in terms of trade, investment and expertise. We also have much to share in terms of capacity-building for democratic institutions and a vibrant civil society. We are deeply committed to a robust, whole-of-government approach to a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region, and we stand ready to work with like-minded countries to advance this common goal through our New Southbound Policy and beyond.

What needs to be reinforced, we believe, is Taiwan's participation in the wide variety of linkages being

built throughout the Indo-Pacific region. We would like to be at the table when economic plans are discussed, and when security concerns are addressed. We are an able-bodied partner, ready to do the heavy lifting necessary to turn dreams into reality. Being present, not turned away due to Chinese objections, would provide great reassurance to us.

What also needs to be reinforced is maintaining a close US-Taiwan security ties as reaffirmed in the Trump Administration's first National Security Strategy. We are thankful for the \$1.4 billion arms sales announcement and welcome the passage of 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. The NDAA provisions regarding Taiwan are a symbol of Congress's support to substantively upgrade official visits and military exchanges between Taiwan and the US, as well as strengthen Taiwan's overall military strength and combat readiness.

With this being said, Taiwan is also well aware of our own responsibilities. As President Tsai has made clear: Taiwan must make the necessary investments in our own defense. We are pleased to have drawn up a defense budget calling for a 5.6 percent increase for the next year. This is the single largest increase in recent years. It represents our commitment and determination to defending Taiwan. At the same time,

we must make sure these investments are being made in worthwhile equipment and training. We will continue to advance our asymmetric defensive capabilities and sharpen our porcupine quills, so that there is no miscalculation that might lead to conflict.

As America's 11th largest trading partner, we continue to hold robust discussions with US counterparts on ways to enhance and upgrade our trade relationship and highlight our efforts to reduce the bilateral trade imbalance that's now in our favor. This year, we proudly sent the largest delegation to the SelectUSA Investment Summit. Foxconn broke ground on a new plant in Wisconsin as part of a \$10 billion investment plan. Formosa Petrochemical has announced a new \$9.4 billion investment in Louisiana. And our CPC Corporation signed a new \$25 billion contract to import LNG from the US. With the strong momentum we feel going forward, we are confident that our economic ties with the US will continue to prosper.

What comes next is up to both of us. But I want to emphasize that it is natural for countries that share a close affinity with each other, see eye-to-eye in terms of values, and a vast economic relationship to want to look at Free Trade Agreements. I certainly see both the strategic and economic sense for it in our two

countries. And that is a message I hope all of you can help conveying to the Trump administration.

As our economic ties grow, people-to-people exchanges have also flourished. We have welcomed the inclusion of Taiwan in the Global Entry program, which will provide an extra boost to the record number of tourists already traveling between our the countries. Furthermore, Taiwan has been the 7th largest source of international students for US schools, and just last year we celebrated 60 years of educational exchange through the Fulbright scholarship. Under the US-Taiwan Global Cooperation and Training Framework, we showcase that countries can work together, and Taiwan has much to share. While China's "sharp power" stings, Taiwan's "warm power" radiates integrity, substance, and genuine care.

Chinese efforts to squeeze Taiwan continue to intensify and know no boundaries. As we have seen in China's bullying of international airlines, Beijing has shown no qualms about using its economic leverage to impose its political views on foreign citizens, governments, and private companies. Unfortunately, airlines are far from the only ones subject to China's "Orwellian nonsense." Recently, China retaliated against a Japanese newspaper, the

Sankei Shimbun. Why? I believe it is because they published an interview with me. And the Spanish University of Salamanca cancelled its “Taiwan Cultural Days” after the Chinese embassy sent threatening letters to the school authorities, demanding that it get the, quote-unquote, “Taiwan problem” right.

Let’s tell it like it is: there is no “Taiwan problem.” There’s only a “China problem.” The “problem” is China’s coercion of Taiwan in the political, diplomatic, military and economic realms. The “problem” is China’s suppression of freedom of speech, freedom of enterprise, and academic freedom in countries far from its shores. In particular, we have seen continued reports about China’s crackdown on peaceful worship, particularly in the Catholic, Christian, and Muslim communities, and this should be of grave concern for the international community.

Make no mistake: China’s intensified coercion of Taiwan is not just a threat to Taiwan. And it’s not just a threat to regional security or balance of power. At its core, it is a threat to global values of freedom and democracy. As China continues to flex its muscles and expand its influence everywhere in the world, if China is allowed to push Taiwan around and force Taiwan to surrender through coercion, there will be

severe global consequences for the democratic way of life and the rule of law. Taiwan is a front line state – we are the first step of contact for China’s actions around the world. Taiwan cannot fall. Not if we want to sustain the values we treasure, or the system that has allowed for worldwide prosperity over the past 70 years.

As I said before and wish to say again, Taiwan is not fighting a losing war. We are gaining more and more support from like-minded countries, especially as China uses its economic leverage to pursue undue political influence in countries around the world. When we strive to strengthen our democracy, safeguard our freedom of press and speech, and shine as the beacon of hope for many who aspire to pursue shared universal values, we know these efforts will be answered around the world. We are on the moral high ground. Taiwan is the David to China’s Goliath. And we will prevail.

As President Tsai said at the AIT dedication ceremony, quote, “As free and open democracies, we have an obligation to work with one another to defend our values and protect our joint interests.” We Taiwanese are one resilient people, and we are determined to safeguard our precious democracy. Resilient and determined though we might be, we

cannot face these challenges alone. Thanks to the steadfast support from the Trump administration, Congress, and the broader US policy community represented here in this GTI symposium, we know we are not alone. But in trying times like these, reinforcing the bonds that are already in place requires constant attention and creative reaffirmation. Now more than ever, let us work together to defend our shared values and build an enduring peace based on freedom and democracy.

Thank you all again for your attendance today, and I wish the GTI's second annual symposium a great success.