

TAIWAN NEWSLETTER

Lai, Hsiao sworn in as 16th-term ROC (Taiwan) president, vice president

President Lai Ching-te pledged to create a democratic, peaceful and prosperous future for the Taiwanese people as he was sworn into office alongside his Vice President Hsiao Bi-khim, May 20, in Taipei City.

In his inaugural address, President Lai paid tribute to the valiant sacrifices and devotion of those who came before, as he discussed Taiwan's journey from martial law to democracy. The inauguration, he said, marked not only the beginning of a new administration, but also another hard-earned victory for democracy.

The President outlined his administration's plans to develop Five Trusted Industry Sectors, namely semiconductors, AI, military, security and surveillance, and next-generation communications, adding



that Taiwan is eminently capable of being a thriving global economic powerhouse. Regarding cross-strait relations, Lai noted that there is already a strong international consensus that peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait are indispensable to global security and prosperity. He also reiterated that the government will continue

to uphold the Four Commitments, neither yield nor provoke, and maintain the status quo.

President Lai further expressed his hope that China will face the reality of the Republic of China's existence, respect the choices of the people of Taiwan, and choose dialogue over confrontation.

MOFA urges China to stop escalating regional tensions

Following China's launch of the two-day Joint Sword-2024A military exercise around Taiwan, May 23, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) called on China to exert self-restraint and cease any aggressions that could jeopardize cross-strait peace and stability.

There is a growing consensus among the international community on the importance of maintaining peace in the Taiwan Strait, MOFA said. Nevertheless, they added, China has disregarded the rising global concern and repeatedly threatened Tai-

wan's democracy, attempting to unilaterally change the status quo and jeopardizing regional security. Taiwan's determination to uphold democracy will not waver under any oppression, the Ministry reiterated.

The European External Action Service also condemned China's actions, May 23, stating that the military activities increase cross-strait tensions. They also reiterated that the EU has a direct interest in the preservation of the status quo in the Taiwan Strait and opposes any unilateral actions that change the status quo by force or coercion.

President Lai receives delegations from allies, partner countries

Newly inaugurated President Lai Ching-te received a number of delegations from allies and partner countries at the Presidential Office, May 21 and 22, reaffirming the government's commitment to deepening relations and promoting peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

Following his inauguration on the previous day, Lai met with delegations from allies Belize, Eswatini, Guatemala, Palau, Paraguay, St. Vincent and the Grena-

dines, and the Vatican, May 21. Likewise, on his third day in office, he received delegations from allies Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Tuvalu, and the Marshall Islands, as well as like-minded partners Lithuania, Singapore and Somaliland.

Taiwanese community in Belgium hold rally in support of Taiwan's WHA participation

Ambassador Roy Chun Lee, together with staff from the Representative Office and their families, attended the "Health for All, Taiwan can Help - the bid to support Taiwan's entry into WHA" event held at Place Jean Rey in front of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission, May 22. Member of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives Georges Dallemagne, as well as Ambassadors and Representatives from Taiwan's allies Eswatini, Haiti, Belize, Guatemala, and Paraguay, all joined Lee in attending the event and voicing support for Taiwan's international participation. More than 100 Taiwanese and Europeans from all walks of life attended the event to show their support Taiwan's cause.



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