

TAIPEI REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE IN THE UK

駐英國台北代表處



(Original source: British Office in Taipei)

MESSAGE FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE

This month brings exciting news of Taiwan-UK innovation and technological collaboration. On March 21, Vice President Chen Chien-jen and UK Foreign Office Chief Scientific Adviser Professor Robin Grimes launched the 'UK-Taiwan Innovative Industries Programme' (UKTW I2P), strengthening bilateral cooperation in these areas. We also look forward to more bilateral engagement at the upcoming Smart City Summit and Expo (SCSE) from March 27-30 in Taipei.

Taiwan has also made headway in the realms of art, literature and culture. Wu Ming-Yi's *The Stolen Bicycle* was nominated for the prestigious Man Booker International Prize. Our offices continue to promote greater awareness of our unique culture, especially among young UK citizens, through the Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS). As we stride onwards, we remain confident that Taiwan's relations with other countries will continue to grow and develop positively.

Taiwan's VP and UK Foreign Office Chief Scientific Adviser launch UKTW I2P

On March 21, Taiwan's Vice President Chen Chien-jen and UK Foreign Office Chief Scientific Adviser Professor Robin Grimes launched the 'UK-Taiwan Innovative Industries Programme' (UKTW I2P), strengthening the bilateral partnership in IC industry innovation, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, digital economy, green energy, robotics and outer space. Attendees included academics in the fields of science and innovation as well as high-level business executives from Taiwan and Britain.

Under the UKTW I2P, the UK government will provide approximately £200,000 (NT\$8 million) to support Taiwanese researchers seeking to conduct projects at British universities and institutions. Vice President Chen remarked the UKTW I2P demonstrates greater cooperation between Taiwan and the UK and is an opportunity for both countries to achieve great success. The Vice President raised driverless vehicle technology as a potential area for fruitful Taiwan-UK collaboration.

Further Taiwan-UK collaboration expected at Smart Cities Forum



From March 27-30, the 2018 Smart City Summit and Expo (SCSE) will be held in Taipei with five UK cities in attendance including Bristol, Greenwich, Milton Keynes, Peterborough, and West Lothian. The expo involves 50 parallel conference sessions which will feature over 250 global leaders and experts, and is expected to attract over 25,000 professional visitors from around the world. A UK delegation composed of 17

businesses will be in attendance. Taiwan's Deputy Foreign Minister will meet with the leaders of delegations representing each UK city.

The SCSE will be key to advancing UK-Taiwan cooperation on Smart City-related projects as it includes the second UK-Taiwan Smart Cities Forum, which is co-hosted by the British Office in Taipei and the TRO. The theme of the forum is "Driving the Future: Developments in Connected and Autonomous Vehicles" and will feature guest speakers from the UK and Taiwan.

Taiwan thanks US for signing Taiwan Travel Act into law



On March 16, President Tsai Ing-wen thanked US President Donald Trump for signing the Taiwan Travel Act into law, stating "I look forward to working with your administration to further the longstanding partnership between Taiwan and the United States." The act authorises visits to Taiwan from US officials at all levels to meet with their counterparts and also enables high-level officials from Taiwan to visit the US under conditions that demonstrate the appropriate respect for the dignity of such officials.

Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) said Taiwan continues to work towards deepening its partnership with the US, and reiterated that stronger bilateral relations will in turn contribute to regional peace and stability. US Representative Ed Royce stated the act is long over-due and necessary as the Taiwan-US relationship is critical to American interests in the region. He also remarked that the two sides share the values of democracy, rule of law, and human rights.

World-famous Cloud Gate premieres 'Formosa' in London



From May 9 to 12, the critically acclaimed Taiwanese dance troupe Cloud Gate Dance Theatre will be showcasing their latest masterpiece 'Formosa' at London's Sadler's Wells Theatre. 'Formosa' draws inspiration from the 16th-century Portuguese settlers' description of the tropical island, Taiwan. The performance interweaves tribal elements with urban bustle, accompanied by music from the award-winning indigenous artist Sangpu.

Founder and director Lin Hwai-min is one of Asia's most distinguished choreographers, having received the Samuel H. Scripps/American Dance Festival Award for Lifetime Achievement in recognition of his work. Previous awardees include Pina Bausch, William Forsythe, and Martha Graham. Over the past 45 years, Cloud Gate Dance Theatre has performed at globally renowned events and venues from New York to Moscow.

Guardian publishes Representative Lin's letter



On March 9, the *Guardian* published Representative Lin's response to mainland China's decision to abolish the two-term limit on the presidency. The Representative commented on the implications of this recent move for cross-Strait and international relations, pointing out that such action is part of a larger trend known as "sharp power". In contrast to soft power, sharp power diplomacy involves using intimidating and punitive measures to pressure other nations into executing certain foreign policy objectives. To read Representative Lin's letter online, please visit the [Guardian page](#).

TRO promotes Taiwan's 'Youth Mobility Scheme' in UK



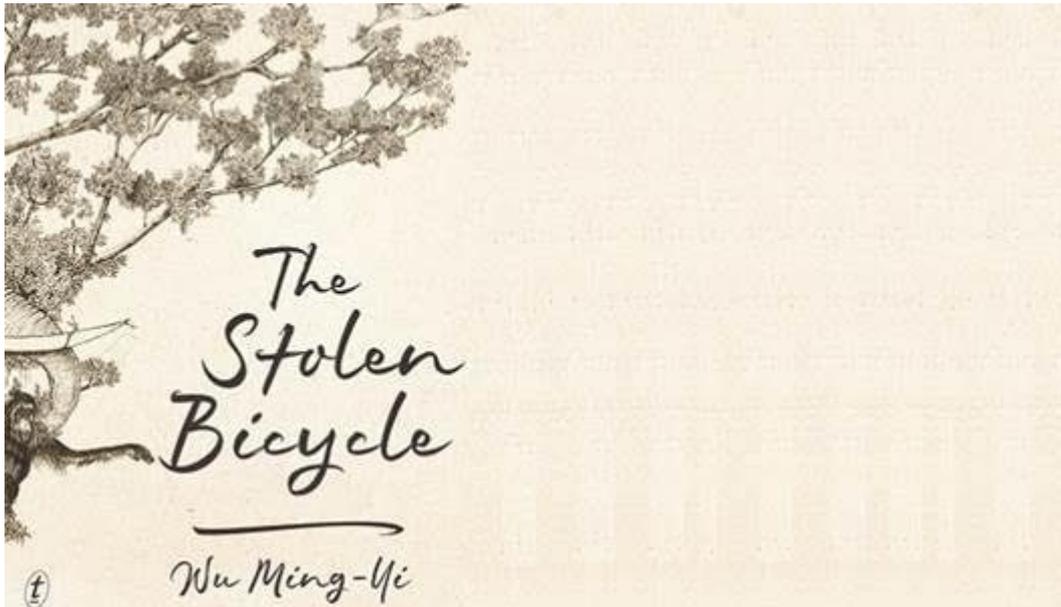
On March 7, Deputy Director of the TRO Administrative Division Ya-Hui Chen gave a presentation on Taiwan's Youth Mobility Scheme (YMS) at the University of Central Lancashire. YMS is a working holiday programme aimed at young people ages 18 to 30 who are interested in travelling and gaining experience in Taiwan. The programme emphasises holiday first, work second. YMS can include not only travel and paid employment but also short-term courses in Mandarin as well as volunteer work. The TRO will be holding a tea-time discussion about YMS on April 20. For more information about the programme, please visit the YMS official [webpage](#).

Representative Lin meets with Parliamentarians at Lib Dem spring conference

Representative Lin was invited to attend the Liberal Democratic Party's spring conference from March 10-11 in Southport. During the event, he met with Sir Vince Cable MP, Baroness Brinton, and the Party's spokesman on international trade and exiting the EU, the Rt Hon Tom Brake MP. Representative Lin referred to the progress made in bilateral trade talks held in December 2017, whereby three more dialogues were established in the renewable energy, agricultural, and financial service sectors.

He also highlighted the UK and Taiwan's increasing collaboration on Smart City and railway industry projects. Representative Lin reiterated that the establishment of direct flight services from London to Taipei last year on December 1 further demonstrates the growing people-to-people connections between Taiwan and Britain. Sir Vince Cable and Layla Moran MP also praised the positive results of the close collaboration between both sides.

Taiwanese novel *The Stolen Bicycle* longlisted for Man Booker International Prize



On March 12, *The Stolen Bicycle*, a novel written by prominent Taiwanese author Wu Ming-Yi, was longlisted for the Man Booker International Prize. Wu's latest masterpiece takes readers on an incredible adventure in search of a stolen bicycle. The narrative interweaves the stories of several characters that feature in the protagonist's journey, including the oldest elephant in the world, the soldiers who fought in jungles of Southeast Asia during World War II, and the butterfly handicraft makers of Taiwan. The novel has received praise from famous writer Hugh Howey and the *Times Literary Supplement*.

Taiwan's aboriginal weavers participate in Craft Week



From May 11-12, Taiwanese weavers Shu-li Lin and Hsiu-yu Chen will present a series of workshops and demonstrations at the British Library about the ancient textile weaving traditions of the Atayal aboriginal people of Taiwan. The events will take place from 11 to 16:30 as part of London Craft Week. For more information, please see the London Craft Week [event page](#).

The Atayal people are known for their ancient textile-weaving traditions. Shu-li Lin studied the Atayal tradition of dyeing and weaving from the elders of her community. Combining Atayal weaving techniques with the colours, textures, and practices of modern design, Lin's work balances tradition with environmental protection and sustainability. Hsiu-yu Chen started weaving 12 years ago to connect with her own heritage.

Representative Lin meets with Ambassador of Honduras and High Commissioner of St. Vincent & the Grenadines



