



New Year's Eve Countdown at Taipei 101



Towering over Taipei's Xinyi district, Taipei 101 -which is the second tallest building in the world- is the city's most recognizable landmark. Once a year the tower appears to explode.

When the clock strikes 12 on New Year's Eve a splendid fireworks display is launched from the exterior of the tower, one of the most spectacular shows in the world to welcome the new year. Hundreds of thousands of revelers will head to the area surrounding the tower to celebrate the end of the year together, first watching the grand stage show featuring many top acts from Taiwan's pop-music scene.

If you want to avoid the large crowds, there are numerous other locations from which you can watch the fireworks, including restaurant in high-rises close to the tower and outdoor spots on Four Beasts Mountain southeast of the Xinyi Districts, with superb unobstructed views of the sparkling lights of Taipei and majestic Taipei 101 not far away.

Alishan Sunrise Impression Concert

After the fireworks that cap New Year's Eve it's just a few hours more till the first dawn of the New Year. In Taiwan, many people go to places where they can savor the first sunrise in a scenic setting. Many opt for spots on the east coast, where they can see the sunrise over the Pacific Ocean.

Other head to Alishan National Forest Recreation Area, famous for its sunrises over Yushan (Mt. Jade, Taiwan's highest mountain). While on January 1 it can get quite cold up in the high Alishan mountains, there is something that will warm you up, spiritually when watching the sunrise - classic music performed live by an orchestra - sure to make your first day of the year a unique and unforgettable one.





Cloud Gate Dance Theatre - 雲門舞集

Cloud Gate is the name of the oldest known dance in China. In 1973, choreographer Lin Hwai-min adopted this classical name for the first contemporary dance company in any Chinese speaking community.

Its 24 dancers receive trainings of meditation, Qi Gong, an ancient form of breathing exercise, internal martial arts, modern dance, ballet, and calligraphy. Through Lin Hwai-min's choreographies the company transforms ancient aesthetics into thrilling modern celebration of motion.

Cloud Gate has toured extensively with frequent engagements at the Next Wave Festival in New York, the Sadler's Wells Theatre and Barbican Centre in London, the Moscow Chekhov International Theatre Festival, and the Internationales NRW directed by Pina Bausch.

International critics have acclaimed Cloud Gate as the following:

„Asia's leading contemporary dance theatre”
The Times, London

„One of the finest dance companies in the world”
The Globe and Mail, Toronto

White Water - Little Dusts

November 19 ~ December 27 (in Taiwan)

White Water and Little Dusts are Lin's two latest creations. His inspiration for the first dance work came when he took a picture of a mountain river in Taiwan. Upon printing the image in black and white format, he was impressed by the crispness of the whites. This type of imagery is projected as video on a large screen behind the performers on stage, who dance to the sound of a single piano.

Little Dusts deals with people's reaction to the disasters that happen in the world around us and at times seem overwhelming. The dancers wearing black paint a bleak picture of human despair.



Taiwanese Seafood



Taiwan is surrounded by the sea, and ocean currents flow past and converge just off the island's coast, creating good fishing grounds and enriching Taiwan's marine resources. In addition, research on and advances in breeding technology have improved the variety and quality of seafood available in Taiwan, giving people more choices when selecting seafood as an ingredient. Seafood has thus become an indispensable element of daily fare in Taiwan.

Considering Taiwan's seafood recipes and its map of marine products, a great variety meets the eye. Creatures such as lobster, red frog crab, swimming crab, grouper, and bigeye tuna, which is rich in DHA, as well as fish suitable for eating raw, can all be found in Taiwan.

The richness of littoral landforms and the convergence of ocean currents have literally turned

Taiwan into a seafood kingdom. The style of cooking seafood in Taiwan is influenced by those of Fujian, Guangdong and even Japan.

It puts an emphasis on natural flavors rather than complex seasonings. Dishes often highlight refreshing and mellow flavors. When cooking, whether stewed, stir-fried, steamed or boiled, dishes tend to be light and often limit the need for flavoring to a variety of delicious sauces.

Taiwan's fishing harbors, whether north or south, are the best places to savor seafood dishes. Shops offering fresh seafood ring the harbors. Here, diners can select the fish or crustacean they wish to eat, which is then cooked on-site. These fresh products, together with the house specialties of different restaurants, will satisfy even the choosiest of gourmets.



1. Steamed Prawn in Garlic Sauce
蒜泥蒸大明蝦

2. Braised Squid
紅燒小卷

3. Five-flavor Small Abalone
五味九孔

4. Stir-fried Venus clam
炒海瓜子

Fun with Chinese: one, two three

一 二 三。 壹 貳 參。

Learning the numbers usually comes in the early stages of studying a new language. Chinese is no exception and, considering that vast number of complicated characters there are in this language, starting with the characters for numerals makes sense, because they are among the easiest to learn and memorize.

Here are the numerals from one to nine:

一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九

Memorizing these nine is quite easy, as learning to write them. The next step in mastering Chinese numbers is learning the characters for ten, hundred, thousand and ten thousand, which are:

十 百 千 萬

Then, after learning how to combine those characters to form larger numbers, you will be able to write any number up to 99,999,999 (for 100 million you need to learn another character).

By this point, you will most likely will be brimming with confidence and, when entering a bank in Taiwan, you might want to put theory into practice and fill in

the numbers on a check in Chinese all by yourself, without the assistance of a clerk. Well, not so fast, Jackie Chan! There is still more to learn.

You need to use a whole different set of (more complicated and therefore less likely to be mistaken for one another) characters for numerals when writing numbers on documents for bank transactions and other important dealings.

From zero to nine, these characters are:

零 壹 貳 參 肆 伍 陸 柒 捌 玖

And characters for ten, hundred, thousand and ten thousand are:

拾 佰 仟 萬

Having memorized these characters as well and learned how to write them without hesitation, you might then head off to the bank to impress the clerk behind the counter by presenting a perfectly filled-in check.

PAY TO THE ORDER OF FRED CHENG

DATE 10 / 09 / 2014

新台幣 壹仟貳佰參拾肆萬伍仟陸佰柒拾捌元

NT\$ 12,345,678

Travel in
TAIWAN BANK

Johan Twelli

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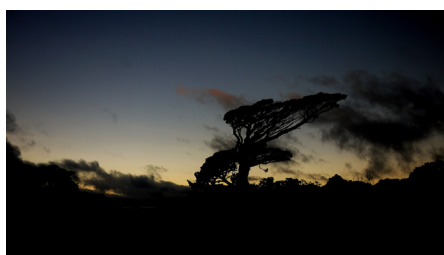
Jiaming Lake - a beautiful high-mountain lake

At an elevation of 3,520m above sea level, Jiaming Lake is Taiwan's second-highest mountain lake, and one of its biggest. It was once thought that the lake was created by a meteor strike, but it is now believed that it was formed by glacier movement during the last ice age. While it is quite far from Taipei, it's an excellent two-day hike destination in a more remote part of Taiwan.

From Taipei it's a long drive to Xiangyang National Forest Recreation Area, where the hike begins. The area is located close to the 155km marker on Provincial Highway No.20 (the Southern Cross-Island Highway). If you don't have your own means of transport, the easiest way to get there is to

take a train down to the town of Chishang in Taitung County and then hire a driver there.

First part of the hike is walking through the forest recreation area to the trailhead. From this point, it is a gentle and very pleasant walk through pine forest to the first mountain hut, the Xiangyang Cabin.



From there the trail becomes much steeper, all the way to the point where you come out of the forest.

There are spectacular views from here, including the famous Xiangyang tree - popular subject of hiking photographers.

On the way to the lake, hikers usually first climb up to the peak of Mt. Sancha (3,496m) and just then head to the lake to admire its beauty with a hot cup of ginger tea before going back to the mountain cabin preparing for the way back.

Safety & Practicalities

The Jiaming Lake walk isn't a technical hike, but since the lake is in the high mountains, it is recommended that anyone wishing to do the hike get in contact with or put together a hiking group to go on an organized trek with a guide.



Youth employment issues

According to the recently released 'Youth Policy White Paper' of Taiwan, youth in Taiwan are a highly educated generation with high ideals, who yet have to face a highly competitive playing field. They are highly interested in taking part in public affair, but lack the opportunities and ways to do so.

Taiwan is faced with an environment of rapid change and challenges, youth issues are more complex and crucial then ever. So apart from actively listening to young people, the government needs to properly plan a youth personnal resources



What are Taiwanese employers looking for?

The global economy has influenced different parts of the Taiwanese management culture. In recent years, efficiency and flexibility have become attributes that are appreciated in employees. Nonetheless, traditional Taiwanese customs are still highly regarded, mostly when it comes to respect for colleagues and seniority. Most companies appreciate hard-working and modest employees. So the most wanted qualities are:

- High academic record.
- Strong communication and negotiation skills.
- Strong interpersonal and social skills.
- An in-depth knowledge in your field of expertise.
- Respect for seniority.
- Modest attitude.

Where are the opportunities?

- Accounting and finance
- Advanced manufacturing
- Architecture, planning and construction
- Biotechnology
- Engineering
- Healthy and medical care
- ICT and e-commerce
- Mining and energy

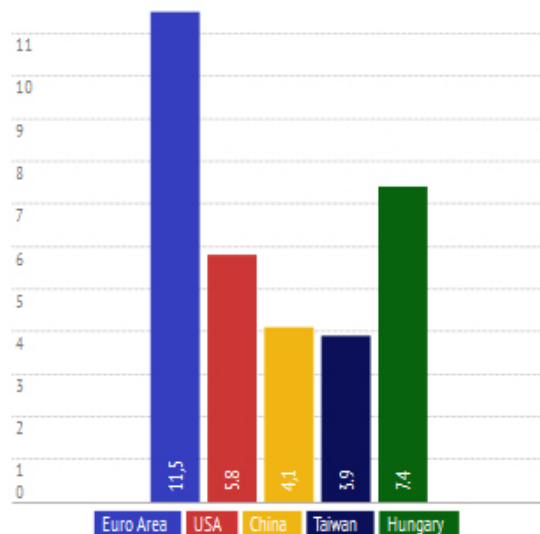
development policy to deal with changing times and the needs of young people.

Reacting for the demanding situation, the Ministry of Labour and other agencies proposed a three-year, NT\$14 billion plan to promote youth employment and develop young labor force. The plan will provide assistance in finding employment as well as setting career goals, developing positive attitudes and finding opportunities that match both interests and talents.

Furthermore, the MOEA also proposed a startup program that will provide about NT\$2.72 billion between 2014 and 2016 to support young people in starting businesses, provide financial assistance and encourage them to participate in or initiate social enterprises. The project aims to facilitate formation of 3,130 startups by young people.

As for specific data, the youth (15-24) unemployment fell to 12.27 percent in April, after peaking at 13.17 percent in 2013, demonstrating the effectiveness of government policies to stimulate the economy and boost youth development, the National Development Council said.

Unemployment rates (%)



Unemployment rates from around the world on percent. As it can be seen, the Euro Area has the highest unemployment rate with 11,5% while Taiwan has the lowest rate of 3,9%.

Integrating Taiwan's strength into Global Climate Action

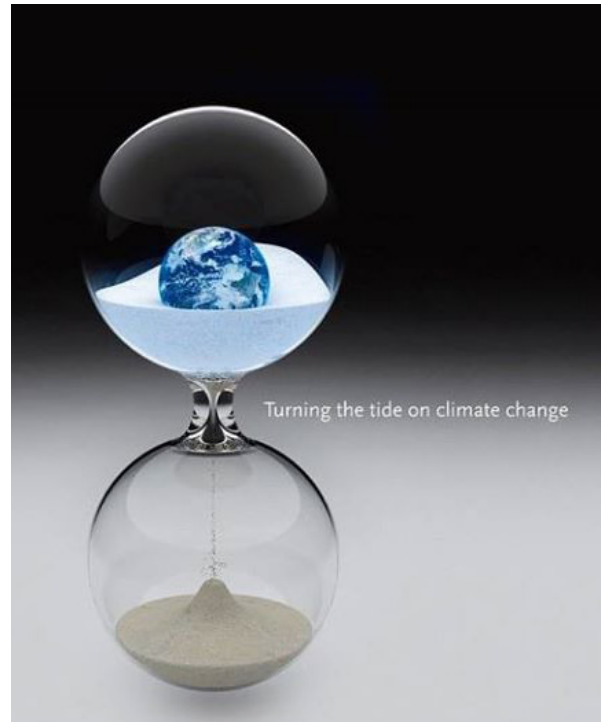
On September 23, 2014, world leaders gathered at the United Nations Climate Summit in New York, hoping to compel all parties to be more aggressive in their actions. International negotiations on climate change now entered a critical phase in the run up to the signing of a new global agreement at the Paris Climate conference in December, 2015.

In Taiwan, due to the government's ambitious policies to promote energy conservation and carbon reduction, carbon dioxide emission posted a negative growth in 2009, for the first time since 1990.

Climate change stands as one of this century's most important political and economic focal points. Its impact is complex, and underpins all social, economic, and environment considerations.

Through government restructuring, Taiwan is currently setting up its Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources to better focus its efforts on pollution prevention, climate change adjustment, disaster prevention and nature conservation.

The government is applying the concept of "urban mining", under which waste is transformed into a resource. Besides promoting recycling and reuse, if Taiwan can seize the opportunity to develop a green economy, it can reduce its carbon emissions and achieve its environmental protection objectives.



After President Ma Ying-jeou announced this year that Taiwan's Lungmen Nuclear Power Plant would be mothballed after safety inspections, he promised to hold the Fourth National Energy Conference.

Some other countries, like the European Union stand as an example, with its courage to follow through its commitments, to show that it is not what ideals we hold that matters, but rather what we are together willing to accomplish. For a long time now, Taiwan has quietly yet diligently also gone about trying to fulfil its role as a responsible member of the global village. However it still remains excluded from the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). The participation would enable the ROC to both receive the much needed support and to share its experience in environmental protection – integrating Taiwan's strengths into global climate action.



Independent candidate wins Taipei mayoral election

In a blow to the ruling Kuomintang (KMT), independent candidate Ko Wen-je swept to victory Saturday in the Taipei mayoral election, becoming the capital city's first non-KMT mayor in 16 years.

Ko, 55, had campaigned on a promise to change the poisoned atmosphere of partisan politics even though his candidacy was endorsed by the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). Dubbed „Ko P,” meaning „Professor Ko,” by his students at National Taiwan University Medical College, the heart surgeon had never played any role in politics until earlier this year.

He will now become Taipei's first non-Kuomintang (KMT) mayor since 1998, when the DPP's Chen Shui-bian failed to win re-election. Ko, Lien and five other candidates were competing to replace Hau Lung-bin, who will step down in December after serving a maximum two four-year terms.

Meanwhile Tsai Ing-wen, the chairperson of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), thanked voters for giving her party the „best performance” in Saturday's election by helping it to score victories in 13 of the 22 cities and counties up for grabs -- including four out of the six special muni-



Supporters waving flags as the results of the 2014 elections are announced

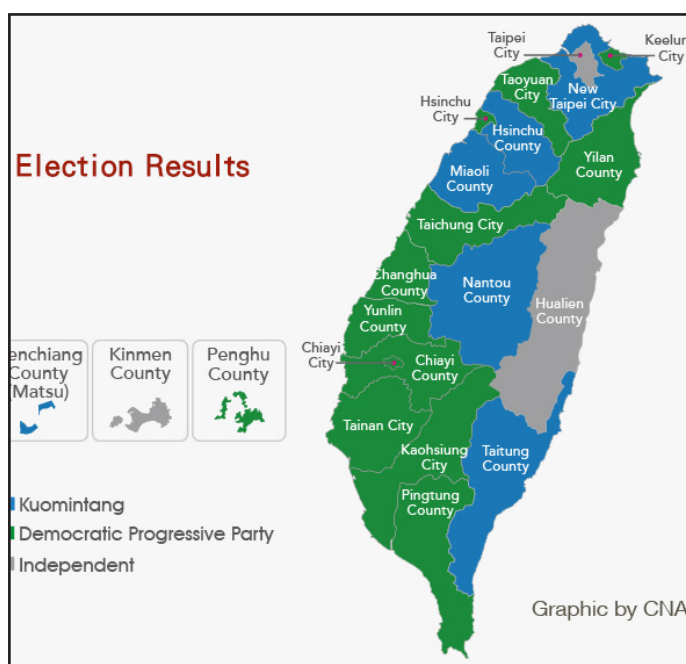
cipalities: Taoyuan, Taichung, Tainan, Kaohsiung.

The American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) praised Taiwan's just-concluded local government elections in a statement issued on Sunday, calling Taiwan a „thriving democracy” and urged continued cooperation between the two countries. (AIT represents Washington's interests in Taiwan in the absence of formal ties between the two countries.)

Following the results of the election, on Monday Premier Jiang Yi-huah led his Cabinet to resign en masse in the wake of the ruling Kuomintang's crushing defeat in Saturday's local government elections, widely seen as a vote of no confidence in the government.

Jiang's Cabinet will remain in a caretaker role until a new premier is sworn in. Speaking during a meeting after the resignation, Jiang urged his Cabinet members to stand firm at their posts of duty during the caretaker period to ensure the normal operation of the country.

„In addition to respecting the opinions expressed by the people through their votes, we should closely examine why we could not win support from more voters,” he said.



Taiwan's map of the election results

Blue areas: Kuomintang

Green areas: Democratic Progressive Party

Grey areas: Independent