

January 1st - Founding Day of the Republic of China

January 1, 1912 is the official "birthday" of Asia's first democratic republic, the Republic of China.

Discontent with the Qing dynasty government's oppression, corruption and submissiveness toward foreign powers, Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the founding father of the ROC, rallied a vanguard of revolutionists to revolt against the Ch'ing court.

This movement spread rapidly in southern China, from Canton and Hweichow in Kwangdong Province, Chinlian in today's Kwangsi Province to Hokou in Yunnan Province, culminating in the failed Canton Uprising of April 27, 1911.

Nearly six months later, on October 10, the success of the Wuch'ang Uprising in Hupei Province marked a turning point in Sun's struggle. Within one month, regions across the mainland joined



the revolutionary camp, and 15 provinces declared independence from the Ch'ing government.

Since the revolutionary army had no forum at that time for unifying its regional commands, leaders from each province gathered together in Wuch'ang to formulate the 21-article "Outline for the Organization of Provisional Government," with Huang Hsing Generalissimo temporarily in charge of national affairs.

On December 29, representatives from each province convened a meeting and elected Sun as president of the republic. Sun was officially inaugurated the next year (1912) on New Year's Day, which marks the founding day of the Republic of China.

Realizing the inevitability of the demise of the Ch'ing court, the last emperor Aisin-Gioro Pu Yi proclaimed his abdication on February 12, 1912.

On this day, families across Taiwan proudly fly the national flag while streets are ablaze with lanterns, banners and dazzling lights. This day is a commemoration of the deeds of the revolutionary heroes, and a reminder for citizens to cherish the free way of life they enjoy today.





EYushan: Jade MountainTaiwan's highest mountain



Taiwan's highest mountain, Mt. Jade receives its name due to the fact that during the winter season, Jade Peak is often snow capped with thick snow which makes the entire peak shine like stainless jade.

Jade Mountain consists of 11 mountain peaks with the highest, the Main Peak standing at 3952 meters. Other peaks include South Peak, North Peak, North North Peak, West Peak, Front Peak and East Peak. All of these peaks are over 3,000 meters and are part of Taiwan's 100 mountain list.

For those interested in hiking, we have good news: Climbing Jade Mountain has never been easier. The Yushan National Park has created a well laid out system or trails, maps, markers, food, lodging, and a permit system to allow more hikers to experience this great hike and peak the highest mountain not only in Taiwan, but in east Asia. Jade Mountain is a moderately difficult trek. It isn't very steep except for the final ascent. The total elevation climb goes from 2,600 meters at the Tatajia Saddle to 3,952 meters at the peak. The distance is 8.2 kilometers to the Paiyun Lodge and then an additional 1.2 kilometers to the peak. The trail is very well laid, out, mostly gradual, and easy to walk on. This is a major reason why many Taiwanese and visitors are able to make it to the peak regardless of their hiking experience.

Hikers need 2 permits to enter and climb any mountain in Yu Shan National Park. One permit is the mountain permit from the Yu Shan National Park office and the other permit is from the local police station. Both checkpoints for each permit are at the entrance to the park at the Tatajia Saddle. If you have problems with getting the permit, Blue Skies Adventures has English speaking guides who can apply for permits and bring hikers up Jade (and other peaks) several times a year.



Yangmingshan Flower Festival



As January through March is the time when most of the flowers of Yangmingshan National Park bloom, the mesmerizing sea of flowers bring together large numbers of visitors to the park. It's the flower blossoming season of sakura (cherry blossom), azalea, camellia, wild peony, peach blossoms and many more, covering Yangmingshan National Park with picturesque sceneries. A number of events and activities are scheduled every year along with the mesmerizing sceneries for visitors to see the charms of this Taiwan National Park.

Yangmingshan National Park, located in Beitou District of Taipei City, Taiwan, is renowned for its hot spring, and abundant plants and animals. With a subtropical and temperate climate, Yangmingshan National Park has recorded different species of 30 mammals, 21 amphibians, 22 fishes, 53 reptiles, 122 bird, 168 butterflies and countless insects and invertebrates, perfect for an ecotour.



Cala Lilies

The park is characterized by a large clock made of flowers with a diameter of 22 feet. Water runs around the flower clock and music is played every hour. The clock is the characteristic of Yangming Park. Opposite the clock is a statue of late president Chiang Kai-Shek; on both sides of the statue are the cypresses planted by president Chiang himself. The Xinhai Guangfu Building was completed in 1971, right in the center of the park. In addition, there is a statue of Wang Yang Ming, the famous Chinese scholar in the 17th century.

Commonly seen flowers at the Flower Festival

Japanese Cherry



Camellia



Rhododendron





Taiwanese stir fried rice noodles are made of an Asian kind of vermicelli, as its name also shows: made out of rice. The dish usually is made with pork, dried shrims and shitake mushrooms, but since it is a traditional dish, every Taiwanese family has their own way of preparing it.

炒米糕

Some of the ingredients to make this can be found in the "Asian food aisle" of the regular supermaket. A little bit harder to find might be the dried shrimp and the black vinegar – these you can usually be found only in a Chinese market. If you cannot find dried shrimp, you can always substitute with 1/2 c. baby cocktail shrimp (use 1/2 c. chicken



broth to replace the leftover soaking water). For the black vinegar (this is a mildly sweet, somewhat syrupy vinegar) – balsamic vinegar would probably make a good substitution. Fried red onion is also usually found in the Asian market... if you can't find it, French's fried onion would probably work out ok.

Ingredients

- 1/2 package dried rice stick (Maifun)
- 6 oz. meat (chicken, pork, beef), sliced thin
- 1 T. cornstarch
- 5-7 dried shiitake mushrooms
- 1/4 c. dried shrimp
- 1/2 medium cabbage, shredded
- 2-3 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 2 T. fried red onion
- 2 T. soy sauce
- 1 T. black vinegar
- 1-2 T. canola oil
- salt, pepper to taste
- water for soaking

1) First prepare your ingredients. Slice the raw meat, and toss with the cornstarch and about 1/2 T. soy sauce. Then, pre-cook the meat in a large wok with 1 T. of the oil. (Season lightly with salt/pepper to taste.) Set aside.

THE RECIPE

2) To prepare the noodles, heat some water in a large pot to a boil. Add the dried rice stick, cover, and turn off the heat. Allow the noodles to soak and soften for 10 minutes, then drain, rinse with cold water, and set aside.

3) Soak the dried shrimp and shitake mushrooms in separate bowls in about 1 c. water for about 30 minutes. Remove the shrimp, set aside, and reserve the soaking water for later to flavor the noodles.

4) Slice the carrots into matchstick sized pieces, chop the onion, and shred the cabbage.

5) Once your ingredients are prepped, heat the wok again with the remaining oil.

6) Add the fried red onion, and stir fry for about 30-60 seconds over high heat 7) Add the mushrooms, chopped onions, and carrots and continue to stir fry for 1-2 minutes.

8) Add the shrimp, mix together. Then add the cabbage, mix, then cover. Allow the cabbage to steam and reduce for a few minutes. Remove the lid once the cabbage has wilted.

9) Next add the pre-softened rice noodles, and mix together. Add the remaining soy sauce, and continue to cook, tossing the ingredients as you go, until all the liquid is absorbed.

10) Add the cooked meat, toss, and taste. Add salt and pepper to taste.

11) Finish the dish by topping with the black vinegar and mix together. Serve immadiately



ANG LEE - 李安

Having garnered international acclaim for his work, Taiwanese director Ang Lee was one of the first Chinese-born directors to find critical and commercial success on both sides of the Pacific. After winning awards in 1985 for his student work (while at N.Y.U., he also worked on Spike Lee's acclaimed student film, Joe's Bed-Stuy Barbershop: We Cut Heads), Lee spent the next six years working on screenplays, eventually making his directorial debut in 1992 with Pushing Hands.

A comedy about the generational and cultural gaps in a Taiwanese family in New York, it won awards in Lee's native country. His next film, The Wedding Banquet (1993), further explored cultural and generational differences through a gay New Yorker who stages a marriage of convenience to please his visiting Taiwanese parents. The film met with widespread acclaim, winning a Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival and a Best Director prize at the Seattle Film Festival, as well as Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations.

The biggest movie

I left Taiwan to come to America to study drama and then returned home to make the biggest movie I've made. It was very emotional for me filming Life of Pi in Taiwan. Everybody wanted to help and make it happen. There was a lot of spiritual encouragement and financial help, and they invested a lot of love in me. It was like coming full circle, going back there. It was a visit and a homecoming. Taiwan is like my floating island. It is an island that's not recognised as a country; it doesn't have a definite identity. It's a very special political situation there: everything's undecided. Floating. It's an island, it's oceanic and I've been adrift, floating like Pi, all my life.

People ask me why I make different types of film: Jane Austen, Brokeback Mountain, and The Hulk. If we had a choice, we'd have many lovers instead of sticking to one marriage. I don't get to do that in life [he laughs]. I have been married to the same woman.

I love doing different types of film.



First in East Asia, Taiwan parliament reviews gay marriage bill

It's commonly known that Taiwan is a modern and liberal country that respects and supports the equality amongst all of its citizens. The proposed amendment of the Civil Code that aims to legalize same-sex marriage is just another proof of that.

In the end of December it became a topic of debate in Taiwan's Leguslature, marking the first time that such a bill has ever been reviewed at the parliamentary level in East Asia. Bills must pass three readings in the Legislature before being sent to the president to be promulgated

Opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) lawmaker Cheng Li-chiun, one of the lawmakers who proposed the draft bill, said in the session of the Judiciary and Organic Laws and Statutes Committee that it is the Legislature's responsibility to make changes to discriminatory or unfair laws.

"No one deserves to be deprived of their rights at birth to be on an equal footing with others just because of their psychological or biological differences," Cheng said of the current system in Taiwan, which like many other countries only recognizes marriage between a man and a woman.

Under the proposed amendment, the terms "man and woman," "husband and wife" and "father and mother" in the Civil Code would be changed to the gender-neutral "two parties," "spouses" and "parents," respectively.

Up until today, it had been shelved largely due to opposition from religious groups. In a statement, the



Taiwan Religious Groups Alliance for the Family accused lawmakers and gay rights activists who support the draft bill of "pretending to be civic groups" to "terrorize" other lawmakers with opposing views on same-sex marriage.

Just a few days prior to the review, one of the country's top singers has just released a new song called "We're All Different, Yet the Same" which is exactly about the topic of the same-sex marriage problem. Claiming to be based on a true story, the 4 minute, 13 second video now on Tsai's official YouTube channel stars 70-year-old actress Kuei Ya-lei, whose character is unable to sign her significant other's hospital papers to allow an emergency surgery because she is not a legal spouse or family member.



Comparison of the attitudes towards same-sex marriage in Taiwan and Hungary.

As the charts show in Taiwan more than half of the population (67.5%) supports the marriage of same-sex couples - while this ratio is only 30% in Hungary, with 47% of the people strongly opposing the issue.

Taiwan tops Asia as knowledge-based economy

Taiwan was rated first among Asian economies in using knowledge-based industries to drive economic growth, according to the "Innovative Asia: Advancing the Knowledge-based Economy" report released in September by the Asian Development Bank.

Scoring 8.77 out of 10, Taiwan bested Hong Kong, which had a score of 8.52, Japan with 8.28, Singapore with 8.26 and South Korea with 7.97. The country also beat the average 8.25 for all members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and was well ahead of the 4.39 average for the Asia-Pacific region.

In the study, 28 Asian economies were evaluated on 12 key performance indicators in four categories: Economic Incentive and Institutional Regime, Education and Skills of Population, Innovation and Technological Adoption System as well as Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure.

With scores of between 7.77 and 9.38, Taiwan ranked No. 1 in ICT infrastructure, ahead of Hong Kong; No. 2 in education, behind South Korea, as well as in innovation, where it was next only to Singapore; and No. 3 in economic incentive, trailing only Singapore and Hong Kong.

According to the National Development Council, having a knowledge-based economy is key to prosperity and social transformation as it helps drive development through equality, inclusion and innovation.

"The ADB's latest report is a strong vote of confidence in government efforts," an NDC official said, adding that the top rankings underscore the competitive edge the nation enjoys.



Citing statistics from the Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics, the NDC said Taiwan's intellectual property investment amounted to NT\$701.6 billion (US\$22.42 billion) in 2013, up 5.07 percent over the year before. Between 2007 and 2013, the country's IP investment relative to machinery equipment jumped from 39.61 percent to 61.12 percent.

The NDC said the government is implementing a raft of measures to develop Taiwan into a regional center for innovation and entrepreneurship, with a focus on sharpening the global competitiveness of the service sector.

"These measures include further institutional reform, regulatory easing and trade liberalization to bring the country's business environment more in line with that of the rest of the world," it added.



TAIWAN INT'L TILS LIGHTING SHOW



Taiwan Trade Shows - 2015

where opportunities get activated

Every year TAITRA organizes and hosts multiply trade shows at three different venues in Taipei (and some to give the founders and designers opportunity to introduce their extraordinary new findings and products to the audience. Here we would like to introduce some of 2015's first quarter's Trade shows.

<u>TIMTOS</u>

Taipei Int'l Machine Tool Show

Date: March 3-8 Venues: TWTC Exhibition Hall 1 & 3 www.timtos.com.tw

> TIOS Taiwan Int'l Orchid Show

SPOMODE Taipei Int'l Sports Textile & Accessory

Date: March 18-21 Venue: TWTC Exhibition Hall 1 www.spomode.com

<u>DiWaS</u> Taiwan Int'l Diving and Water Sports Show

Date: March 18.21

Venue: TWTC Exhibition Hall 1

www.diwas.com.tw

Date: March 6-16 Venue: Taiwan Orchid Plantation (Tainan) www.tios.com.te

> TAIPEI CYCLE Taipei Int'l Cycle Show

Date: March 18-21 Venue: TWTC Exhibition Hall 1 www.taipeicycle.com.tw <u>TILS</u> Taiwan Int'l Lighting Show

Date: March 25-28 Venue: TWTC NANGANG Exhibition Hall www.tils.com.tw

<u>LED Taiwan</u>

Date: March 25-28 Venue: TWTC NANGANG Exhibition Hall www.ledtaiwan.org

> March 18-21, 2015 TWTC NANGANG EXHIBITION HALL TWTC EXHIBITION HALL 1

Taipei Int'l Sporting Goods Show

Date: March 18-21 Venues: TWTC Exhibition Hall 1 & 3 www.taispo.com.tw

