



Taiwan, WHA need each other: President Tsai

Taiwan and the World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the WHO, need each other in the face of COVID-19 challenges, President Tsai Ing-wen said, in response to yet another year of Taipei not receiving an invitation.

Despite the support of 71 governments, legislative bodies and parliamentary groups, Taiwan has not been invited to attend the WHA's annual meeting, which began on May 22 in Geneva, Switzerland, and runs until Saturday.

"Taiwan needs the WHA, and the WHA also needs Taiwan," she said.



The integrity of global disease prevention should not be compromised because of opposition from one country, President Tsai said, adding that more than 40 countries, including the US and Japan, have expressed support for Taiwan's bid to participate in the WHA. Taiwan took part in WHA meetings from 2009 to 2016, but it has been excluded since 2017 due to pressure from China.

Rejection of Chinese rule the general consensus in Taiwan: Foreign minister

In an interview with Greek newspaper ESTIA, Wu said that the situation in Hong Kong had made the "evil nature of the Chinese dictatorship" clear to Taiwanese. Beijing's trampling of Hong Kong's democracy and human rights runs counter to the "one country, two systems" that it promotes.



The foreign minister pointed out that Taiwan is facing serious military threats from China in the form of gray-zone tactics, including air defense identification zone incursions. As a result, Taiwan is committed to improving its self-defense capabilities and developing asymmetric combat capabilities to build deterrence, he said. Wu said that the international community has realized the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, as shown by affirmations during U.S.-Japan, Japan-Australia, and U.K.-Australia summits and similar bilateral meetings. "We hope that democratic partners will continue to support Taiwan and work together to safeguard Indo-Pacific security and shared values," Wu added.

Taiwan aiming to recruit more foreign professional talent

As Taiwan looks to transition toward living with COVID, it is also preparing to restart its push to attract foreign talent to the country. Five Taiwanese tech companies, including Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., recently announced 14,500 job openings in the chip and hardware manufacturing sectors. Meanwhile, Google and Microsoft, who have set up data centers in the country along with other business units, have over 1,000 job listings on LinkedIn. The National Development Council (NDC) in an August survey last year found there was an overall shortage of 248,000 workers in Taiwan, including 47,000 at the executive level. The NDC recently proposed a recruitment initiative to attract 100,000 foreign professionals to the country by 2030. The NDC is also working to update work and residency regulations, starting with adjustments to the 2018 Act for the Recruitment and Employment of Foreign Professionals, which includes the resident-work visa offering referred to as the Taiwan Employment Gold Card program.

