

* Taipei English News of the Week 臺北英語新聞本週重點新聞：

- 1) **Taipei Gains International Recognition** 臺北市亞洲最佳藝術與文化城市、會展排名全球第**23**、幸福城市指數全球第**46**
- 2) **Sweden Day Returns to Taipei After Seven Years** 瑞典日活動深化臺瑞經貿、教育與文化交流
- 3) **Taipei Honors 80 Long-Married Couples** 115年金婚表揚**80**組金婚夫妻
- 4) **Taipei Makes Concerts, Movies, and Sports Events Tax-Free!** 北市看電影、聽演唱會、追球賽免稅
- 5) **Yangmingshan Hydrangeas and the Maokong Gondola Milestone** 竹子湖繡球花季&貓空纜車運量突破**4,000**萬人次

Welcome to Taipei News. I'm Kenneth Chi, and thank you for joining us.

1) Taipei Gains International Recognition 臺北市亞洲最佳藝術與文化城市、會展排名全球第**23**、幸福城市指數全球第**46**

Taipei has recently received strong recognition in several international rankings.

In *Time Out*'s latest global ranking, Taipei was named the best city in Asia for arts and culture. The city ranked 11th in the world and first in Asia. Locals say the secret is Taipei's mix of old and new. You can watch traditional opera in the morning, and visit modern art galleries at night. Even better? It won top marks for being budget-friendly.

Taipei is also doing great in the latest ranking by the International Congress and Convention Association, or ICCA. The city ranked 23rd in the world and 6th in the Asia-Pacific region for international meetings in 2025. It also remained No. 1 in Taiwan.

The good news keeps coming. Taipei also made the top 50 list for the world's happiest cities. Taipei is proving to be a safe, creative, and welcoming home for everyone.

2) Sweden Day Returns to Taipei After Seven Years 瑞典日活動深化臺瑞經貿、教育與文化交流

After a seven-year break, the Swedish Trade and Invest Council hosted the big celebration on May 23rd. Taipei Mayor Chiang Wan-an joined Sweden's representative, Helena Reitberger, to celebrate the strong friendship between the two sides.

Sweden and Taiwan share deep business and cultural ties. In fact, Swedish brands are already a huge part of daily life here. Think of household names like IKEA and H&M, Volvo cars, and global digital hits like Spotify.

Mayor Chiang says he hopes to see even more cooperation in business, education, and culture. He also thanked the Swedish office for bringing the festival back, saying he hopes it will become a major annual event once again.

[sound bite]

3) Taipei Honors 80 Long-Married Couples 115年金婚表揚**80**組金婚夫妻

Over the weekend, Taipei City honored eighty local couples for their long-lasting marriages. The special event

celebrated couples hitting major milestones, including those marking fifty and even seventy years together.

Mayor Chiang Wan-an thanked the couples for being wonderful examples of lifelong love and support. He even joked that he still has thirty-two years to go before he can celebrate his own fifty-year golden anniversary!

[sound bite]

Mayor Chiang also used the moment to highlight Taipei's senior-friendly programs. The city offers special perks like taxi discounts and hospital fee waivers to encourage senior citizens to stay active and enjoy life. Overall, the city is working hard to make Taipei a happier, safer, and more supportive place for families of all generations.

4) Taipei Makes Concerts, Movies, and Sports Events Tax-Free! 北市看電影、聽演唱會、追球賽免稅

Here's great news for music and sports fans in Taipei!

New rules just took effect, making movie tickets, live concerts, and sports events across the city completely tax-free.

The city government cut the old entertainment tax to help lower costs for event planners. They hope this big move will attract more international superstars and major sporting events to the city. They also say it will give a major boost to local tourism, hotels, and businesses.

The goal is clear: they want Taipei to become Asia's top destination for world-class arts, culture, and sports.

5) Yangmingshan Hydrangeas and the Maokong Gondola Milestone 竹子湖繡球花季&貓空纜車運量突破4,000萬人次

Looking for a fun weekend trip in Taipei? We have two great options for you.

First up, the hydrangea season at Mt. Yangming's Zhuzihu is officially underway! From now through July, the hillsides there are turning into a colorful ocean of flowers. Visitors are flocking to local farms and mountain gardens to take photos with these massive, round blooms in striking shades of pink, blue, purple, and bright white. Here is a fun science fact: these flowers change color depending on the soil. Acidic soil turns them blue, and alkaline soil turns them bright pink!

Or you can visit the opposite side of town. Taipei's famous Maokong Gondola just welcomed its 40-millionth passenger! The cable car system opened back in 2007 and is getting ready for its 20th anniversary next year. It sits right next to the Taipei Zoo MRT station, taking riders on a scenic trip over the mountains for incredible views of the city skyline. Once you reach the top, you can relax and enjoy Maokong's famous traditional tea culture and cozy mountainside teahouses.

That was Taipei News for the week. Tune in every Friday at 10:00 a.m. on Taipei Broadcasting Station or stream us online at <https://tradio.gov.taipei/>.

I'm Kenneth Chi. Thanks for listening. See you next time!

■ Vocabulary List

1. recognition [ˌrekəɡˈnɪʃən] (n.) 認可; 肯定
2. ranking ['ræŋkɪŋ] (n.) 排名; 排行

3. culture ['kʌltʃə] (n.) 文化
4. international [ˌɪntə'næʃənəl] (adj.) 國際的
5. cooperation [koʊ,ɑ:pə'reɪʃən] (n.) 合作
6. representative [ˌreprɪ'zentətɪv] (n.) 代表
7. milestone ['maɪlstoʊn] (n.) 里程碑;重要階段
8. anniversary [ˌænə'vɜ:səri] (n.) 週年紀念日
9. tax-free [ˌtæks 'fri:] (adj.) 免稅的
10. destination [ˌdestə'neɪʃən] (n.) 目的地;旅遊地