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民主進步黨
Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

President-elect Lai Announces His National Security Team



2024/4/25

On April 25th, Vice President-elect Lai Ching-te (賴清德) announced the sixth wave of cabinet appointments during a press conference. The list includes Wellington Koo (顧立雄) as Minister of National Defense, Lin Chia-lung (林佳龍) as Minister of Foreign Affairs, Joseph Wu (吳釗燮) as Secretary-General of the National Security Council, Pan Meng-An (潘孟安) as Secretary-General of the Presidential Office, Tsai Ming-yen (蔡明彥) as Director of the National Security Bureau, Chiu Chui-cheng (邱垂正) as Minister of the Mainland Affairs Council, Cheng Wen-tsan (鄭文燦) as Chairperson of the Straits Exchange Foundation, and Yen Teh-fa (嚴德發) as Minister of the Veterans Affairs Council. Lai stated that the new national security team will take up the responsibility of protecting the nation's sovereignty under President Tsai Ing-wen's "Four Commitments," continuing to promote the "Four Pillars" of democracy and peace, with peace as the beacon and democracy as the compass to safeguard national sovereignty and enhance international participation.

Some Highlights in Media Q&A session:

- **Vice President Lai:** I am eagerly looking forward to China having the confidence to engage with the legitimate government elected by the people of Taiwan. This is the right path for cross-strait exchanges. If they continue to refuse to engage with Taiwan's legitimate elected government and prefer to interact based on preconditions with the opposition, it won't gain the trust and support of the people. Over the long term, this approach is not likely to be beneficial for China and certainly won't have a positive impact on the peaceful development of cross-strait relations.
- **Minister Koo:** As Vice President Lai mentioned, it is not uncommon in democratic countries for a civilian to serve as Minister of National Defense. I certainly feel the weight of this responsibility, so I approach it with caution and prudence. However, I am clear about our national defense strategic objectives. I will work with the professional military team, including command, armaments, and military governance departments, to build a modernized force. This includes accelerating and strengthening asymmetric and joint warfare capabilities and making training more combat-oriented. This applies not only to active duty but also to reserve forces. Also, reforming the reserve system is a formidable challenge; we aim to make reserve forces an effective combat force and demonstrate to the world Taiwan's determination and ability to defend itself. Moreover, the creation of coordinated deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region, which aims to contain possible Chinese aggressions, is gradually taking shape. Taiwan plays a crucial role in this cooperative framework; it is imperative that we participate with strength and resolve. Our main goal is to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific and Taiwan Strait regions.
- **Minister Koo:** Our country is committed to maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait region, as part of the regional peace and stability framework, we must participate in the gradually forming coordinated deterrence. As the Minister of National Defense, my primary task is to continually strengthen our military capabilities to participate in this coordinated deterrence effectively. Our primary goal is to complicate the calculations of the other side, continuously pushing back the timeline of any potential rash or aggressive military actions by China, ensuring peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and the region. This is the duty of the Minister of National Defense.

[Link to the full transcript of the press conference \(remarks & QA\) \(EN\) >>>](#)

[Link to the full video \(CH\) >>>](#)

[Link to the DPP press release \(CH\) >>>](#)

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