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民主進步黨
Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan

**President Lai Meets with Former President Tsai
and Vice President Hsiao,
Reaffirming Unity and the Path Forward**



August 26th, 2025

President Lai Ching-te met on August 24 at his official residence with former President Tsai Ing-wen and Vice President Bi-khim Hsiao to exchange views on the domestic and international situation. The three leaders agreed that the value of democracy lies in ensuring diverse voices are heard and in building greater consensus, which serves as the driving force for the nation's continued progress.

■ President Lai: Turning the People's Voice into Momentum

In a [post](#), President Lai noted that the recalls and referendum have concluded, and pledged to transform the people's voices into momentum for moving forward. "I will take strength from the people's voice and work together with everyone, in order to lead Taiwan step by step into a better future," he said.

On August 23, President Lai also stressed that the administration will make "[four adjustments](#)" in response to public expectations—adjusting team formation, policy priorities, executive-legislative interactions, and the nation's fiscal structure. He added that necessary cabinet reshuffles will be initiated to enhance efficiency and ensure policies deliver tangible results.

■ Vice President Hsiao: Shared Mission Strengthens Taiwan

Vice President Bi-khim Hsiao reflected in her own [post](#) after the meeting that, since beginning her career as a Presidential Office advisor in 2000, later serving as Taiwan's Representative to the U.S., and now as Vice President, she has had the privilege of working closely with three presidents. She has witnessed firsthand both the burdens and aspirations that come with the presidency.

Noting that former President Tsai brought along her dogs to encourage her and President Lai, Hsiao commented that, while different in personality, both leaders share warmth, a strong sense of responsibility, and a deep commitment to Taiwan. United by a common mission, she said, their combined strength will help Taiwan overcome challenges and move forward.

■ Former President Tsai: One Nation, Greater Unity in Difficult Times

For her part, former President Tsai Ing-wen emphasized in her [post](#) that Taiwan faces many internal and external challenges. She visited the residence to exchange views with President Lai and Vice President Hsiao and to express her encouragement.

“We have only one nation,” Tsai said, underscoring that in difficult times, unity is more vital than ever. She urged continued support for President Lai, Vice President Hsiao, and the administration so that, together, everyone can work for the Taiwan they love.

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Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan



Dear friends,

The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) U.S. Mission cordially invites you to a Happy Hour gathering near Capitol Hill!

Enjoy casual drinks, thoughtful conversations, and networking as we bid farewell to the summer.

[Event Details]

► **Date: Thursday, August 28**

► **Time: 5:30 PM**

► **Location: The Union Pub (201 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002)**

This is an **invitation-only** event. Please let us know if you would like to bring/refer a friend or colleague. To RSVP, please register through **Eventbrite** below using the Access Code: **DPP2025HH** to unlock the RSVP page.

👉 Please RSVP by COB on August 27.

For security reasons, we'll be sending out emails via MailChimp within a few days of RSVP to confirm attendance.

For any questions or special requests, please contact my colleagues Cristal Chiou/Dennis Yang/Peng-Hsuan Chen at dpp.dc.office@gmail.com or call Dennis at 206-636-5637.

Sincerely,

Iris Shaw

Director, Taiwan DPP U.S. Mission

[Register Here](#)

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**Chairman Lai Ching-te's Remarks at the DPP
Central Standing Committee on Typhoon
Response and the August 23 Nuclear Referendum**



August 20th, 2025

On August 13, the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) held the 45th session of the 21st term of its Central Standing Committee. Chairperson Lai Ching-te made the following remarks:

The Central Weather Administration has issued sea and land warnings for Typhoon Podul. Its outer bands have already reached Taiwan, and it will make landfall on our east coast.

Although this typhoon should cross Taiwan quickly today, it is expected to bring strong winds and heavy rainfall to eastern and southern Taiwan. The central and local governments must make every preparation for prevention and relief. We must make rapid loss assessments in order to provide necessary assistance and reduce the impacts of the typhoon on our people.

As for the disaster areas in central and southern Taiwan following Typhoon Danas, which made landfall in Taiwan on July 6, and subsequent monsoon rains, many vulnerable households whose homes were damaged have not been able to complete repairs. Therefore, I have asked all of our party's elected officials to work together with local governments on related measures to ensure the safety of lives and property for all affected citizens.

Meanwhile, the Chikungunya virus continues to spread globally, and we have recorded 17 imported cases here in Taiwan. Since Chikungunya virus is transmitted by mosquitoes, in order to prevent its spread, the government will work together with the people to carry out cleaning of water storage containers and residential environments. Through effective anti-mosquito efforts, together we can stop the chain of transmission and prevent an outbreak of this virus.

Finally, all our party members and supporters and the public at large are concerned about the upcoming referendum on August 23. As I have stated on May 20, in a speech marking the first anniversary in office, **after the passing of amendments to the “Nuclear Reactor Facilities Regulation Act,” and as we face the issue of whether to restart any nuclear plants, the government will act carefully, following “two requirements” of procedure and upholding “three principles.”**

The first procedural requirement is that, according to the law, the Nuclear Safety Commission must adopt a regulation for the process of reviewing the security of plants. On August 1, the Commission completed drafting the regulation and opened a public consultation. Until September 30, they will

collect the opinions regarding the draft, and then undertake revision.

The second procedural requirement is that Taipower must follow the new regulation to undertake its own safety review, and it must also assess whether a plant meets the conditions for restarting and the timeframe and cost estimates for doing so. At last week's policy presentation, Taipower Chairman Tseng Wen-sheng clearly explained the company's readiness to undertake these assessments after the regulation is finalized.

The government's consistent position has always been to address the issue of nuclear power responsibly, **based on the three principles of alleviating concerns about safety, solving the waste disposal issue, and building social consensus**. For the nuclear power issue, safety is the overriding consensus of Taiwanese society, and we all know that safety is a scientific issue, not something that can be resolved by referendum.

This referendum on restarting the Third Nuclear Power Plant is being held before the proper safety assessment procedures are completed, without giving citizens full access to information about the risks and costs involved. Such a referendum simply cannot confirm how much risk the people are willing to bear to restart the plant. Therefore, I will go to vote on August 23, and I hope we will all vote "No."

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Democratic Progressive Party, Taiwan

[Updated] DPP Concludes Second Annual Diplomacy Empowerment Program in Washington, DC



August 11th, 2025

[Note: Please disregard the previous email, which inadvertently contained

incorrect information.]

The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Diplomatic Empowerment Program (DEP) delegation has returned to Taiwan after completing an eight-day visit to the United States from July 19 to 26, 2025. Now in its second year, the DEP aims to cultivate Taiwan's next generation of international affairs professionals by providing direct exposure to key players in U.S. policymaking. This year's visit featured wide-ranging discussions with senior officials, leading think tanks, and strategic policy institutions, further deepening Taiwan-U.S. mutual understanding and strengthening the foundation for long-term cooperation.

During the visit, the delegation held discussions with U.S. government agencies, called on the **Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) in the United States**, and the **American Institute in Taiwan (AIT/W)**. On Capitol Hill, the delegation attended a congressional hearing, "Stand with Taiwan: Countering the PRC's Political Warfare and Transnational Repression," hosted by the **Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC)** and met with bipartisan professional staff members from the **House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party**.

The delegation also engaged with a broad range of prominent think tanks and policy institutions, including the **American First Policy Institute (AFPI)**, **Heritage Foundation**, **Hudson Institute**, **American Enterprise Institute (AEI)**, **Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)**, **Center for a New American Security (CNAS)**, **Brookings Institution**, **Atlantic Council**, **German Marshall Fund (GMF)**, **Institute for Indo-Pacific Security (IIPS)**, and the **Special Competitive Studies Project (SCSP)**.

Additionally, the delegation held focused conversations with the **RAND Corporation** and the **U.S.-Taiwan Business Council (USTBC)** on topics including economic resilience, national defense, and supply chain security. They met with seasoned officials from previous administrations at **The Asia Group**, **American Global Strategies (AGS)**, **Beacon Global Strategies (BGS)**, the **Vandenberg Coalition**, and the **Carnegie Mellon Institute for Strategy & Technology (CMIST)**. They also visited the **Formosan Association for Public Affairs (FAPA)**. These conversations highlighted the enduring support from overseas Taiwanese for deepening Taiwan-U.S.

friendship.

Throughout the trip, the delegation engaged U.S. counterparts on a wide range of shared priorities, including asymmetric defense capabilities, whole-of-society defense resilience, defense industrial cooperation, cross-strait peace and stability, high-tech supply chain cooperation, trade and investment, energy transition, and Taiwan's international participation. The program offered participants firsthand insight into the workings of the U.S. policy environment and practical experience in representing Taiwan's interests on the global stage.

The DPP extends its sincere appreciation to all the institutions, government agencies, congressional offices, and community partners who generously hosted the delegation and contributed their time and perspectives. The warm reception and substantive conversations at every stop underscored the strength of the Taiwan-U.S. partnership and our shared commitment to upholding freedom, strengthening deterrence, and advancing prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

As Taiwan faces growing strategic challenges, the DPP remains dedicated to empowering young leaders to engage the world and speak up for Taiwan. Through the DEP, these rising professionals are refining their skills and gaining the experience necessary to help ensure that Taiwan's voice remains heard on the international stage.





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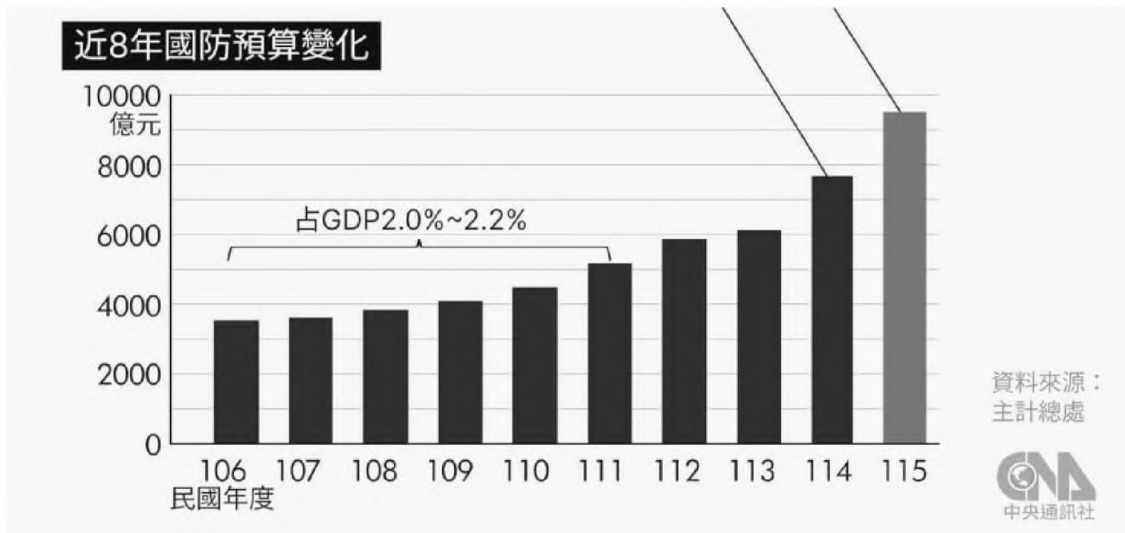
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Taiwan's New Defense Budget Proposal Exceeds 3.3% of GDP



Defense budget growth during the DPP administration since 2017
(Source: [The Central News Agency](#))

August 21st, 2025

President Lai Ching-te, Chairman of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), today (August 21) expressed his appreciation to Premier Cho Jung-tai and the Executive Yuan team for their efforts in finalizing the 2026 Budget Proposal of the Central Government. President Lai noted that, despite the challenges of

Taiwan's new Act Governing the Allocation of Government Revenues and Expenditures and volatile geopolitical dynamics, the administration has strived to uphold fiscal discipline while fulfilling its commitments to social well-being and industrial advancement—a challenging yet commendable achievement.

The 2026 budget centers on five key policy priorities, reflecting the government's determination to push forward reforms and strengthen national resilience:

- ✓ **Upholding Fiscal Discipline:** Maintaining sound fiscal governance amid multiple challenges while easing economic pressure on the public
- ✓ **Strengthening National Defense:** Raising defense spending to over 3.3% of GDP, highlighting Taiwan's unwavering commitment to self-defense
- ✓ **Enhancing Social Welfare:** Advancing the vision of a healthier, more inclusive Taiwan
- ✓ **Driving Industrial Innovation:** Expanding the development of the Five Trusted Industry Sectors and the Ten Major Artificial Intelligence (AI) Infrastructure Projects
- ✓ **Enhancing National Resilience:** Upgrading flood control, counter-fraud efforts, public health and sports infrastructure, and promoting balanced regional development

Among these priorities, national defense and industrial development, in particular, have made great strides:

■ **National Defense: From Policy Vision to Budgetary Action**

President Lai pledged earlier this year that defense spending would be sustained above 3% of GDP. The 2026 budget delivers on that commitment, with total national defense expenditures reaching **NT\$949.5 billion (US\$31.1 billion), or 3.32% of GDP, marking a nearly 23% year-on-year increase.**

This figure includes **NT\$561.4 billion (US\$18.4 billion)** under the Ministry of National Defense, **NT\$179.2 billion (US\$5.9 billion)** in special budgets, and **NT\$65.4 billion (US\$2.1 billion)** from non-operating special funds. In line with NATO standards, it also incorporates veterans' benefits and Coast Guard expenditures. This significant investment reflects Taiwan's determination to strengthen its self-defense capabilities and its resolve to

uphold peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

■ Industrial Policy: Enhancing Global Competitiveness Amid Strategic Realignment

To meet the demands of a shifting global economic landscape, the government will invest an additional **NT\$6.6 billion (US\$216 million)** in the Five Trusted Industry Sectors, including semiconductors, AI, electric vehicles, biotechnology and healthcare, and cybersecurity. In addition, funding for the Ten Major AI Infrastructure Projects will rise by 85%, ensuring Taiwan remains a critical hub in global supply chains and technological innovation.

In response to potential economic impact stemming from reciprocal tariffs in U.S.-Taiwan trade relations, the budget for the “Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprise (MSME) Diversified Revitalization and Development Plan” will be increased by 5.3%, supporting small businesses to boost competitiveness and advance sustainable transformation.

■ A Call for Unity on National Security

Recognizing that national security transcends partisanship, the DPP calls on all political parties and the public to support Taiwan’s defense budget and reforms to enhance the capabilities of our warriors, so that we can stand together with our international partners to safeguard peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and a free and open Indo-Pacific.

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