

## **ICYMI: Taiwan and the U.S. Mark America's 250th Anniversary**

Good afternoon, \_\_\_\_\_

I wanted to flag for you and provide a recap on Taiwan's celebration of America's 250th Anniversary over the weekend.

**WASHINGTON, D.C., June 15, 2026:** ICYMI, On Friday, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) and the Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce of North America (TCCNA) hosted a reception at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States. Drawing approximately 1,000 guests, the evening was the largest event held at the Kennedy Center this year in the lead-up to July 4, bringing together diplomacy, culture, and economics in a single celebration.

The reception highlighted the enduring partnership between Taiwan and the United States — rooted in shared democratic values and strengthened over decades of expanding cooperation across economic, cultural, educational, and people-to-people ties. It also marked a new milestone in bilateral engagement: the launch later this month of the first-ever direct flight between Taipei and Washington, D.C., which is expected to further enhance connectivity and exchange between the two partners.

Attendees included American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) Managing Director Ingrid Larson, alongside friends from across the United States and the Washington policy community and prominent Taiwanese business and trade leaders based throughout the country. Among the evening's VIPs were Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy; Director Madeleine Bordallo of the Washington, D.C. Liaison Office of the Governor of Guam; Minister Chia-Ching Hsu of Taiwan's Overseas Community Affairs Council (OCAC); TCCNA President Eugenia Henry; World Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce (WTCC) President Johnson Hsiung; and TCCNA Honorary Presidents Jackson Yang and Kenneth Wu.

The program featured a photo exhibition tracing the history of Taiwan–U.S. relations, a booth showcasing Taiwan's mix of cultural and natural attractions, and stands highlighting the two partners' long-standing cooperation in agriculture, technology, and education. Taiwan's major airlines also participated, and the National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology (NCSIST) displayed Taiwan's drone capabilities.

### **REMARKS**

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Alexander Yui, Taiwan's Representative to the United States, said the reception celebrated both the 250th anniversary of the United States and the 30th anniversary of Taiwan's first direct presidential election, underscoring the democratic values the two share. He noted the strength of the Taiwan–U.S. partnership, citing Taiwan's standing as the fourth-largest U.S. trading partner, growing investment, and the upcoming launch of direct flights between Washington, D.C. and Taipei, and reaffirmed Taiwan's

democratic resolve in the face of threats from mainland China, along with its commitment to increased defense spending to help ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

TCCNA President Eugenia Henry said the event celebrated the shared values and friendship between Taiwan and the United States while recognizing the contributions of Taiwanese Americans and Taiwanese businesses in strengthening bilateral ties. She expressed gratitude for U.S. support for Taiwan and voiced hope for an even stronger partnership in the years ahead.

Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy remarked that Alaska is the U.S. state closest to Taiwan and recalled his visit to Taiwan last year to advance U.S.–Taiwan cooperation on natural gas, a project he said continues to move forward. He pointed to shared interests not only in energy but also in systems of government, commitment to freedom and human rights, business models, and semiconductor industries. Governor Dunleavy concluded that the democratic experiment the United States launched 250 years ago endures in Taiwan today, invoking Benjamin Franklin’s reflection following the 1787 Constitutional Convention that democracy and freedom, in the United States or in Taiwan, are long-term endeavors that require the collective effort, vigilance, and commitment of all to preserve.

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## **FACT SHEET**

TECRO–TCCNA Reception Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the United States

Event: Reception celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States

Hosts: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) and the Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce of North America (TCCNA)

Date: Friday, June 12, 2026

Venue: John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.

Attendance: Over 1,000 guests

## **KEY THEMES**

- Shared democratic values between Taiwan and the United States
- Taiwan as the fourth-largest U.S. trading partner, with growing investment
- Expanding connectivity, including the new direct Taipei–Washington flight
- Taiwan’s commitment to defense and to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific

Please let me know if there is any additional information I can provide that would be helpful for you and your team.

Thank you,

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