



**NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION**  
**OCTOBER 10, 2015**

**Republic of China**  
**TAIWAN**

*Fostering Peace and Prosperity in the 21st century*

**Viable diplomacy is delivering tangible benefits for the ROC and global community.**

On October 10, 2015, the Republic of China (Taiwan) celebrates its 104th anniversary, an important event underscoring the continuous improvement of Taiwan's relations with the world.

Viable diplomacy is a major reason for this change. Today the ROC pursues a policy of robust cultural, economic and trade exchanges, bolstering Taiwan's reputation as a peacemaker and provider of humanitarian aid.

The first step involved improving relations with mainland China. Beginning June 2008, the two sides resumed institutionalized talks after a decadelong hiatus. Eleven rounds to date have delivered 23 agreements, with one of the most significant enabling the commencement in July the same year of direct flights across the Taiwan Strait. A maximum 840 nonstop services are now permitted per week.

This development paved the way for increased people-to-people exchanges. The number of mainland Chinese tourists and students visiting Taiwan from 2007 to 2014 increased sixteenfold and fortyfold, respectively, to nearly 4 million and over 33,000.

A host of breakthroughs for Taiwan can be chalked up to viable diplomacy. A total of 148 countries and territories offer ROC passport holders visa-free courtesies and other visa conveniences, up from

54 prior to 2008. President Ma Ying-jeou has made 11 trips abroad since taking office, visiting each of the nation's diplomatic allies at least once. And Taiwan has working holiday programs in place with 13 countries, further strengthening people-to-people exchanges.

The East and South China Sea Peace Initiatives are another result of viable diplomacy. They were proposed by the ROC as a way for all parties concerned to shelve disputes, pursue peace and reciprocity, and promote joint exploration and development. The signing in 2013 of a Taiwan-Japan fisheries agreement resolving bilateral fishing disputes lasting 40 years illustrates the merit of this approach.

Viable diplomacy is delivering tangible benefits for the ROC and global community. It is also helping maintain regional stability and security, as well as laying the foundations for Taiwan's expanded engagement with the world.



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