

## AIIA Victoria Taiwan Study Tour 3-17 November 2019

We are delighted to announce that AIIA Victoria is organising a Study Tour to Taiwan. It departs Australia **Sunday 3 November 2019**. It departs Taipei for Australia on **Sunday 17 November 2019**.

We have received strong support from the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Melbourne and our representatives at the Australian office in Taipei for this Study Tour.

### Objectives of the Study Tour

The objects of the Study Tour are similar to those in recent years.

We wish to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with a major Taiwanese think tank. TECO in Melbourne has suggested three possibilities and has already contacted them. All three will be very interesting to meet because they operate in different areas. They are **TFD, Taiwan-Asia Exchange Foundation** and **National Policy Foundation**. Nevertheless, obviously, we will only have a Memorandum of Understanding with one of them.

Some of our time will be spent in Taipei for meetings. We will be briefed by the Australian Representatives there. We will meet with Educational Organisations, Cultural and Business Organisations, Government Departments and some not-for-profit organisations.

### Taiwan

Taiwan is a small economy with a population of about 23 ½ million people.

Taiwan is an important trading partner for Australia. Taiwan ranks in the top 10 for Australian exports and there are many interesting opportunities there. Our relationship generates business and investment for Australian and Taiwan companies as well as jobs for people of both economies. Australia and Taiwan also encourage people-to-people contacts in areas such as the arts, culture, education, science, tourism and sport.

It has a well-developed commercial code, strong constitution and well-educated work force. It ranks in the top 10 Index of Economic Freedom. (Australia ranks 5<sup>th</sup>). It suffers to an extent like we do with an ageing population. It is trying to reduce its heavy dependence on China. Nevertheless, two-way investment and trade between the two countries is very high and the tourist trade is also very strong. China is Taiwan's top export destination with exports last year of \$74 billion. Overall 75% of Taiwan's exports are to other Asian countries.

It will be most interesting to discuss with Taiwanese Officials their New Southbound Policy (from May 2016) with its focus on developing stronger trade, investment and educational ties with 16 Southeast Asian States and Australia and New Zealand. It is also wanting to work with others to advance Indo-Pacific Strategies in the area of stability and a rules-based-order.

Taiwan is a world leader in information and technology products. Its main exports include integrated circuits, LCDs, telephones, semi-conductor devices and print circuits. These total just under \$100 billion per annum. Hsin Chu University is a world leader in computer manufacturing technology.

The tour will include visits to Taipei's most significant cultural monuments as well as a short visit to the famous mountain region. Members with an interest in architecture or engineering may wish to include a short visit to Taipei 101 if it can be arranged.

We may have the opportunity to visit the Beitou Hot Spring Museum in Taipei or the Guanziling Hot Spring in Tainan.

## AIIA Victoria Taiwan Study Tour 3-17 November 2019

### Taiwan History and Culture

#### National Palace Museum\*

We will spend a total of two half days at the National Palace Museum in Taipei. It contains the world's largest collection of Chinese art treasure covering 5,000-year long history. This is the Imperial Collection which began over 1,000 years ago and was brought to Taipei by Chiang Kai-shek.



While in Taiwan we will also go to the famous night markets.

Shilin Night Market is one of the largest night markets in Taipei. The market is centred on Yangming Theatre and Cicheng Temple. Many visitors have come to Shilin Night Market to enjoy the delicious foods, such as large pancake enfolding small pancake, hot pot on stone or Shilin sausage.



#### Nearby Taipei

Just outside Taiwan are the Yeilou Park and Fort San Domingo\*.

Fort San Domingo was built in 1628 by Spanish colonists, who tore the building down before they were expelled from Tamsui by the Dutch traders in 1642. The Dutch then rebuilt a fort called Fort Antonio near the site of the demolished Fort San Domingo.



Yeilou is a cape of about 1,700 meters long formed by Datun Mountain reaching into the sea. When overlooked from above, the place is like a giant turtle submerging into the sea. Thus, it is also called "Yehliu Turtle." Because the rock layer of seashore contains sandstone of limestone texture and it is subject to sea erosion, weathering and earth movements, there is particular scenery consisting of sea trenches/holes, candle shaped rocks, and pot shaped rocks.



## AIA Victoria Taiwan Study Tour 3-17 November 2019

### UNESCO World Heritage Sites\*

Because Taiwan is not a member of United Nations, it is unlikely that UNESCO will soon include any of Taiwan's sites on its list. This, however, has not deterred Taiwan from preparing its most notable sites of interest for possible consideration by UNESCO. Taiwan is relying on its cultural and natural beauty to attract more attention from international tourists. Taiwan notes that these sites do not belong solely to Taiwanese alone; they are there to be shared with people around the world.

### Outside Taipei

We will also travel South to the historical town of Tainan on the Western seaboard. It was the capital of Taiwan from 1683 to 1887. In 1683 Tainan was incorporated into the Qing Empire. The Dutch established a Trading Port in Tainan in 1624.

There we can visit the Anping Old Fort (right), the Shihkan tower, the Confucius Temple and the [Chimei Museum](#).



We will also travel to the hills South of Taipei and see the Taroko Gorge\* in the National Park whose custodians are the local Truku Tribe, the original inhabitants of Taiwan. These original inhabitants were closely related to the Philippines and Malays.

We may even spend a night there as it is almost a four-hour drive through beautiful countryside.



### Update on Costs and other matters

We have now received costings from our Travel Agent in Taiwan. The cost is likely to be \$105,000 NTD per person sharing. This is approximately \$AUD5,000. The itinerary is now finalised. We will be seeing most of these very important sites listed above. We will be staying in 5-star hotels in Taipei and Tainan. Prior to our departure on the Study Tour, we will receive a number of important briefings about Taiwan.

Please note the change of dates (all dates are one day earlier). Latest **arrival time in Taipei** is the morning of **Monday November 4**. The Study Tour ends on **Saturday November 16** in the evening.

Participants are responsible for the cost for their return airfares to Taiwan. Both outward and inward flights are overnight flights of a little over 9 hours. The cost of Economy return is approximately \$1,200 and Business return approximately \$4,000.

**Please register your interest with Patrick Moore (via [email](#) or on 0414 904 765).**

## AIIA Victoria Taiwan Study Tour 3-17 November 2019

### BBC History of Chiang Kai-shek

*Chiang Kai-shek was a Chinese military and political leader who led the Kuomintang (Chinese Nationalist Party) for five decades and was head of state of the Chinese Nationalist government between 1928 and 1949.*

Chiang Kai-shek (also known as Jiang Jieshi) was born on 31 October 1887 in Zhejiang, an eastern coastal province of China. His father was a merchant. At the age of 18 he went to military training college in Japan. He returned to China in 1911 to take part in the uprising that overthrew the Qing Dynasty and established a Chinese republic. Chiang became a member of the Chinese Nationalist Party (known as the Kuomintang or KMT), founded by Sun Yat-sen.

Supported by Sun Yat-sen, Chiang was appointed commandant of the Whampoa Military Academy in Canton in 1924, where he built up the Nationalist army. After Sun's death in 1925, Chiang became leader of the KMT. He spearheaded the Northern Expedition which reunified most of China under a National Government based in Nanjing. In 1928, he led the suppression of the Chinese Communist Party.

Chiang oversaw a modest programme of reform in China but the government's resources were focused on fighting internal opponents, including the Communists. From 1931, Chiang also had to contend with a Japanese invasion in Manchuria, in the north-east of China.



In 1937, Japan launched a full-scale invasion of China. When the United States came into the war against Japan in 1941, China became one of the Allied Powers. As Chiang's position within China weakened, his status abroad grew and in November 1943 he travelled to Cairo to meet US President Franklin D Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. His wife, Soong Mei-ling, travelled with him and became famous in the west as Madame Chiang.

In 1946, civil war broke out between the KMT and the Communists. In 1949, the Communists were victorious, establishing the People's Republic of China. Chiang and the remaining KMT forces fled to the island of Taiwan.

There Chiang established a government in exile which he led for the next 25 years. This government continued to be recognised by many countries as the legitimate government of China, and Taiwan controlled China's seat in the United Nations.

**Please register your interest with Patrick Moore (via [email](#) or on 0414 904 765)**