



Our Taiwan

Rainwater Scarcity in Taiwan

By Staff Our Taiwan writer Luke Yeh

Taiwan is undergoing its worst drought in 56 years. The water Taiwanese consumed last year reached an all-time record, and they used 1.7 percent more water in 2020 than in 2019. It seems that Taiwan encounters water resource problems every few years. The annual rainfall in Taiwan is about 2,000 millimeters, which is 2.5 times the global average (730 millimeters). So, what are the reasons for the lack of water, and how can drought problems be solved in Taiwan?

We can generalize five reasons why Taiwan lacks water. First, uneven rainfall distribution. That is, it does not rain evenly enough or "it rains in the wrong places". Taiwan's rainfall is concentrated from May to November each year, which is both the rainy season and also the typhoon season in the nation. Thus, rainfall is less in other seasons. Second, many rivers in Taiwan are short in length, their catchment areas are small and narrow, and descending slopes are large. Due to these conditions, Taiwan's rivers cannot retain much water. Moreover, many rivers are seriously polluted, which yields less usable water. Third, many reservoirs have serious siltation problems, affecting water storage. And, because of old water pipes and leaky agricultural irrigation channels, 75% of the water in reservoirs evaporates before reaching agricultural lands, affecting water transport efficiency. Fourth, Taiwanese do not value water resources, since water bills are cheap in Taiwan. Finally, outdated water equipment such as leaking water pipes or toilets and frequently washing hands (because

of COVID-19) cause more water consumption. In Northern Taiwan, people may not clearly sense the seriousness of drought, because it still rains from time to time. By contrast, central and southern Taiwan's condition is critical. Some reservoirs are almost dry. If the condition gets worse, the government will probably launch water rationing measures, transporting northern reservoirs' water to water-scarce regions, while hiking water bills to some households.



Dry catchment area in Zengwen Reservoir

In this drought, households are not the only ones in trouble. Industrial water users, especially science Parks in Taiwan face the same problem. According to a report by *Barron's*, Taiwan is the second largest chip producer after the United States. These high-tech industries need plenty of water to produce chips. However, the water level in many reservoirs is very low. This drought will probably make the global chip shortage crisis worse, while the current global supply of semiconductors is already very tight. Therefore, foreign technological investment is concerned about Taiwan's condition.

In terms of raising the water level, the gov-

ernment has various measures to deal with the situation, including the following.

Reclaimed Water Plants

Before 2026, the Taiwan government wants to build eleven reclaimed water plants. If the government finishes this, the plants could supply 334,000 tons of reclaimed water per day. This can be a stable water supply for high-tech factories, so that they no longer worry about a lack of water resources.

Seawater Desalination Plants

Currently, Taiwan has twenty-one seawater desalination plants and the government is building new plants. A plant in Nanliao, Hsinchu has just been built and can produce 13,000 tons of water per day for households, and another plant will be built in August 2022, which will produce 100,000 tons of water for Yunlin's industry.

Do not waste water resources

According to the above methods, we can indeed obtain more water resources, but we should not forget the importance of saving water. Reclaimed water plants and seawater desalting plants are not totally beneficial. If we do not conserve water ourselves, no amount of reservoirs and plants will satisfy demand. Just as the old saying goes, "You never miss the water until the well runs dry." We should cherish our water resources from now on to avoid a future lack of water.

Art by Taiwan News



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Something Fishy: Name Changes in Taiwan

By staff writer Teresa Yu

What does your name mean to you? A precious gift from your parents? An indication of what your identify would comprise in the future? A connection to your family's past life? Whatever it means to you, would you change your name to get something for free? A number of people in Taiwan recently decided to do just this.

A sushi restaurant based in Japan, 台湾ス

シロ (Sushiro), announced that those who changed their name to "salmon" in Chinese (鮭魚, guīyú, although there are other words) could receive free sushi in the restaurant. The restaurant did not think many people would actually change their name just for free sushi, but 332 people in Taiwan did just this.

After the activity was launched, two different camps were established. Youth thought it was a wise and interesting idea to change one's name and receive free sushi. Elders said it was a bad idea.

Dose a change of name have any effect on one's life? Some cultures do regularly change names during life, and more than one name is common in Chinese culture. Some research says that the pros of a name change include relief from an uncomfortable name, and simply having

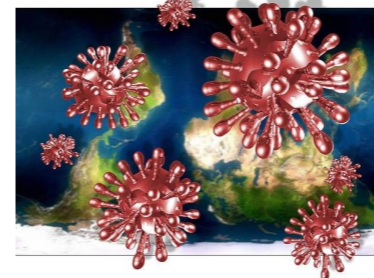
the freedom to choose what you want to be called. Cons include the cost, and professional and legal consequences. The history of changing one's name is always recorded. Some professors at universities and managers at companies say that they won't let interviewees who have changed their name get into their school or company, since they think these people are short-sighted.

After the salmon activity, more companies held activities like this. A small pork stall in a traditional market in Taiwan that does not have a name announced that those whose name matched that of large pork intestines could receive three kilograms of pork intestines. Asia Pacific Telecom publicized that those

whose name was the same as the company could receive a NOKIA telephone. Another company announced that those with the name "abalone (鮑魚, bàoyú) could watch a sex app for a week.

Whether the sushi restaurant has created a "proper" activity is still disputed. But we can know that it certainly convinced some people in Taiwan (although in fact a number of these people have already changed their names back) Art by <https://www.facebook.com/Sushiro.TW/>

COVID-19...



...stay safe!

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Chinese girl killed in Myanmar coup

By staff writer Freddy Yang

The situation in Myanmar is tense. The military has launched a coup and arrested the country's democratically elected leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, on the grounds of fraudulent elections in 2020.

Demonstrations against the coup have been going on for two months. The Myanmar military government has taken force to suppress the protesters. On March 3, they shot and killed protesters. A 19-year-old Chinese woman in Myanmar, Ma Kyal Sin, Chinese name Deng Jia Xi (鄧家希), was protesting against the military coup in the streets when she was

killed. When she stood on the front line of resistance, she was wearing a black shirt with the words "Everything will be okay," written in English. She was taking the lead against the military government, shouting "We will not run away" and "We must not bleed." She was shot in the head by the military and police, and died on the spot.

Before she died, she posted a message on Facebook saying, "I have blood type A. If I am shot to death, please donate my cornea and other

body organs." Burmese netizens have responded in kind.

Ma Kyal Sin was an only child. Her mother is a hairdresser. She loved dancing and had a lively and cheerful personality. She was also a master of Taekwondo. She loved to participate in civic activities. 2020 was her first vote in a Myanmar general election. As a first-time voter, she happily shared her joy on Facebook. She loved Aung San Suu Kyi, the elected prime minister.

It has been reported that the military arbitrarily went to her grave to



Ma Kyal Sin, Deng Jia Xi (鄧家希)

excavate her body, in order to cover up the truth about her death. According to a report by Myanmar's state-run television station "MRTV" on March 6, Myanmar police, judges and doctors exhumed Deng Jia Xi's body and conducted a forensic investiga-

tion. Officials claimed that Deng had a puncture wound on the back of her head. There was a lead shot measuring 1.2 cm by 0.7 cm in her brain, which was inconsistent with the bullets used by the police. The report quoted an official statement, "It can be assumed that those who do not want to be stable started the assassination." Local people were unconvinced. The aim of exhuming her body was to insult Deng Jia Xi and her family it was said. It is believed that the military government wanted to wipe out the truth.

This news will not be ignored by the world media. Local Chinese people living in Myanmar will speak out. To put it simply, in the past, the status of the Chinese in Myanmar has not been recognized. They found it difficult to go back to China, and they were not fully recognized by the Burmese people. Now a Chinese-Myanmar citizen has died in this bloody coup. She bravely stood up and expressed her patriotism. She is a hero of the Chinese in Myanmar.

Art: <https://tw.news.yahoo.com/>, <https://today.line.me/tw/>



By staff Art Walk writer David Pendery

Taipei Biennial: See you in 2023

The Taipei 12th Biennial 2020 art show closed its doors in March at the Taipei Fine Arts Museum (TFAM), drawing to a close one of the premier art exhibitions in Asia. This year's biennial was entitled "You and I Don't Live on the Same Planet," with French philosopher Bruno Latour and French independent curator Martin Guinard (the curators) describing the TFAM as a "planetarium," using the qualities of various planets as symbols of people's changeable perceptions of the present "state of the earth," and posing questions regarding the continuing condition of geopolitical affairs and the increasingly severe crisis of global warming. Latour and Guinard were the curators of the biennial. Separate exhibitions at the show included Globalization, Security, New Diplomatic Encounters, Escape, Alternative Gravity, Moving Earths, and Shoreline Movements. The Taipei Biennial's Public Programs, by Taiwanese curator Eva Lin, put the central concepts of the Taipei Biennial into place, by way of interdisciplinary events such as the "Theater of Negotiations," as well as writing studios and hiking work camps. In this way art was

extended to trial venues in response to local situations and understanding, spurring participants to rehearse "mini-revolutions" in their everyday lives.

The exhibition connected worldwide artists with specialists from a variety of disciplines in science and technology, attempting to guide visitors to make decisions and choices among various regimes and ideals, and also to examine how varying value systems intersect and find equilibrium, allowing humanity to re-establish a sound relationship with the earth and the environment. By calculating their own carbon footprint, analyzing problems, and mounting strategies for improvement, participants worked together to take action to restore the native ecosystem.

The TFAM for the first time this year collaborated with well-known international arts publication *e-flux*, releasing a Chinese-English publication. Contributing writers included Belgian philosopher of science Isabelle Stengers; Chun-Mei Chuang, professor of sociology at Soochow University; Yuk Hui, associate professor at the School of Creative Media, City University of Hong Kong; Brazilian anthropologist

Eduardo Viveiros de Castro; and professor of philosophy Déborah Danowski. These experts shared perspectives to deepen and expand the Biennial's discussions.

For two successive Taipei Biennials, in 2018 and 2020, the TFAM has engaged in in-depth discussions on important ecological issues, grappling with relationships of opposition and negotiation between humans and non-humans, and strengthening the role of museums as key instruments of the ecosystem. Additionally the museum furthered the implementation of the functions of art institutions through practical exercises in negotiation techniques and interdisciplinary knowledge development and artistic participation. Calling upon the public to explore possible ways to solve problems, TFAM energetically performed the social function of an art biennial.

The 13th Taipei Biennial will be postponed to 2023 due to the COVID pandemic. Look out then for the next great art exhibition in Asia.

Art and some data by Taipei Fine Arts Museum.

