

# EDITORIAL

## *What President Biden means for Taiwan*

*Joe Biden's* victory in the 2020 U.S. presidential election certainly caused upheaval in America, and just as important it must be viewed for its consequences in Taiwan. The Trump presidency had on the whole proven favorable to Taiwan, and the country is now looking ahead to any changes.

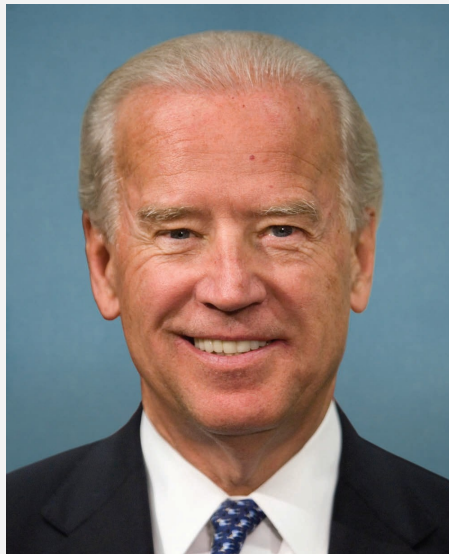
To be sure Donald Trump looked favorably on Taiwan, from his signing of several laws that aided the country and generally improved its international status (including the Taiwan Travel Act, and the TAIPEI Act), to his government's provision of military hardware enabling a stronger defense of the nation, to the US\$250 million expansion the American Institute in Taiwan, to his telephone call with President Tsai Ing-wen after she won election this year. The result was that it was reported that a majority of Taiwanese at home and abroad supported the re-election of Trump.

In the end, it appears, these electors were disappointed. What will this mean for Taiwan?

In an editorial in the *Taipei Times* on November 10, the writer was somewhat critical of Biden, saying that candidate Biden "responded to Taiwan's intense existential concerns with the cheapest form of meaningless election year pandering." This is probably going to far, and in a soberer view, this writer realized that Biden "must work earnestly to prove himself trustworthy to the concerned people of democratic Taiwan." To be sure Taiwan depends heavily on the United States, whichever party is in power, for assistance in its efforts to promote its democracy, and defend itself against an increas-

ingly hostile China. Thus it is hoped that the new president will indeed be "trustworthy." And so what is the truth?

In sum, it has been said that "a worried Asia



wonders about a Biden administration" (Foster Klug, November 13, 2020, AP Tokyo). As Asia views the new administration, countries are asking questions about security, trade and climate change, and are wondering how US President Donald Trump rocked the foundations of US relations with Asia, courting rivals and attacking allies with relish and his own aplomb. Taiwan is asking whether the U.S. will adopt a more moderate, less confrontational approach, and play down its support for Taiwan. As Biden looks to settle difficult issues, there is worry that Asia, and most importantly Taiwan, might end up an afterthought.

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It is true that Biden will most likely take a less-aggressive approach toward China, and will rely more on multilateral approaches to international problems. Such views are not wholly against Taiwan, and in fact a more unified and multi-faceted approach to global affairs, taking in the views and input of various countries (many of which are very pro-Taiwan) could be a benefit compared to Trump's go-it-alone, win-at-any-cost approaches. Organizations in the EU, Japan, Australia, all of Taiwan's allies, and many others have proven to be relatively stout defenders of Taiwan's freedom, democracy and rule of law. This could be valuable in the future. It has been noted that, though a Democrat, seemingly in opposition to Trump's policies, in fact Biden has supported Taiwan-friendly legislation and his party has provided cross-party backing; the Democratic party deleted a reference to Beijing's "one China" policy from its manifesto; and the party has reinforced Trump's sales of military hardware to Taiwan. Biden has criticized Trump for in fact embracing totalitarians like Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin, and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. This can only be beneficial to democracy in Taiwan. Biden for the most part believes that Trump's US-China disputes will fail to extract concessions from Beijing, much less require the country to abide by international norms. With all of this in mind, it appears that Biden may not be bad for Taiwan at all. Biden seems to have a more easy-going approach to politics and policy, and although this might not always be ideal in the cauldron of politics across the Taiwan Strait, let's hope he can be beneficial to this nation in the future.



# Giang Oi: A Vietnamese Green Influencer

By staff writers Sophia Chen and Jolie Li

**G**iang Oi (Tran Le Thu Giang) is a vlogger (video blogger) living in Saigon with three cats, one dog and her husband. At the age of 27, Oi's full-time job is marketing, and her part-time job is producing content for videos on her personal Youtube channel. Giang founded her Youtube channel in May 2017, and after



only one year, she had nearly 500,000 subscribers. Oi shared that her videos are simply a way to record her journey to becoming an adult. But she is doing much more.

In addition to sharing her life experiences, she also discusses modern social issues that young people are interested in, such as studying abroad, learning English, life skills, how to lose weight, love stories, travel, handmade skin care cosmetics, pet care and, most importantly, a green lifestyle.

Giang Oi is a typical Vietnamese young person from a generation concerned about quality of life and environmental protection. She has become a pioneer in green living

activities helping to protect the environment. On her personal page, she regularly makes videos to share and inspire viewers seeking a green lifestyle through recycling, reduced consumption, and reducing unnecessary plastic waste.

Videos with positive content such as "Super cheap office rice-Zero Waste" and "Simple tips for a greener kitchen" have attracted many viewers to her YouTube channel.

These videos investigate not only short-term trends, but also new ways of life, ways of living that have gradually crept into the daily life of today's young generation, such as zero-waste tourism, which is enjoyed by many young people.

Cooperating with Zero Waste Saigon, Giang Oi launched Your Beauty Box with the hope of helping people develop different views about the use of natural beauty products.

She hoped this effort would create a domino effect and have a positive effect on the earth.

Giang Oi is also cooperating with Innisfree Vietnam, a naturalism-

oriented cosmetics brand. Innisfree's "Green Forest Campaign" was launched with a message to recycle empty cosmetic bottles from any brand. Its goals were to reduce the amount of plastic waste from the

beauty industry, and to plant more trees, continuing a mission to green the planet.

Innisfree Vietnam has launched a campaign to reforest Lang Sen Wetland Reserve, a wetland site designated to be of international importance based on the Ramsar Convention held in Iran in 1971. Although only launched in the first half of June, the campaign has already collected several thousand empty plastic bottles. About 5,037 native crops have been planted by Innisfree.

"When people throw garbage down the sewer, your house is flooded, when the environment is polluted, your children are poisoned and contaminated with lead. When the sea is full of plastic, you eat shrimp and fish, actually you just eat plastic" says Giang Oi.

Green living is a trend that is being responded to globally, especially by young people, encouraging better natural habits, and deal-



ing with climate change. Maintaining a green lifestyle not only protects the environment, but also creates healthy hab-

its, and ensures the physical and mental health of the whole family.

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