



PIGEON POST

France celebrates Bastille Day in Taipei

EVENT

The Association of French in Taiwan (AFT) is inviting the public to participate in its upcoming Bastille Day Grand Ball on Saturday to celebrate the 320th anniversary of the national holiday.

"Bastille Day is France's most celebrated national holiday, a moment of popular fever where everybody gathers in the streets," AFT chairman Dominique Levy said.

Bastille Day commemorates the Fete de la Federation, held in 1790 on the first anniversary of the July 14, 1789, storming of the Bastille prison that marked the beginning of the French Revolution.

The Bastille Day Grand Ball event will take place at the Huashan Cultural Creative Park in Taipei City. There will be plenty of food and drinks along with live music, dancing and magic performances to entertain a culturally diverse crowd.

The Bastille Day celebration, which will run from 6:30pm until midnight, will conclude with a lucky draw with many attractive prizes, the AFT said.

Admission is NT\$400 for adults and free for children under 12. Registration can be made by sending an e-mail to comiteaft@gmail.com. Additional information is available at www.taiwanaccueil.com.

Foreign labor force drops

LABOR

The number of foreign laborers in Taiwan has fallen by nearly 10 percent since late last year after Taiwan was hit hard by the global economic downturn, the Council of Labor Affairs (CLA) said on Saturday.

There were 341,000 foreign laborers in Taiwan in May, down from a peak of 374,000 in July last year and 373,000 in November, CLA figures showed.

Much of the diminution has occurred in the manufacturing sector.

"The number of foreign laborers in the manufacturing and construction sectors has always been larger than that of foreign workers in the social welfare sector," a CLA official said, adding that this was no longer the case since April.

In July last year, industrial migrant workers outnumbered foreign workers in the service sector by 208,000 to 168,000. But by April, only 171,000 foreign laborers were employed in the manufacturing and construction sectors, while the number of foreign workers in the service sector — including caregivers and housemaids — increased to 172,000. Indonesia was the top source of foreign laborers in May, with 134,000, followed by 77,000 from Vietnam, 67,000 from the Philippines and 62,000 from Thailand.

STAFF WRITER, WITH CNA



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Canada Day highlights close ties

GOOD FRIENDS, EH? More than just celebrating Canada's birthday, the weeklong activities were a means to show the depth of relations between Taiwan and Canada

BY JENNY W. HSU
STAFF REPORTER

Thousands of people gathered at a park in Taichung on Saturday to take part in the annual "Experience Canada Carnival" held by the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei (CTOT) to highlight the strong commercial ties between Taiwan and Canada and to raise awareness of Canadian businesses in Taiwan.

With red and white maple leaf flags dotting the festival, the event celebrating the country's 142nd

anniversary featured 20 booths with food products, pet supplies, diet supplements and services for immigration and study in Canada.

Fair goers also had a chance to enjoy grilled Canadian beef provided by the Canada Beef Export Federation as well as freshly fried donuts made by Nicholas Pena-Alvarez, a Canadian chef working at a leading hotel in Taichung.

"This is a wonderful way to let people who have never been to Canada know a little more about the

country. All I knew about Canada was the kind and friendly Canadians that I met. I had no idea that Canada had so many products in Taiwan," said Mary Wang (王惠盈), a housewife and a Taichung City resident after trying a ginseng drink from a Canada-based company started by a Taiwanese entrepreneur.

Other activities included a Canada-Taiwan Environmental Film Festival, a month-long Canadian food promotion organized by Hotel One, several seminars on

studying or immigration to Canada, and a night of drinks and fun at a local pub featuring Canadian beers.

This was the 12th time that CTOT had held Canada Day in Taiwan. Each year, the celebration is held in a different part of the country. The purpose, said Ron MacIntosh, the head of CTOT, is to highlight the diverse and robust relationship between the two countries.

Despite the absence of diplomatic ties, the two share a strong friendship, said MacIntosh, adding that his office, which acts like an embassy, is Canada's fourth largest visa-issuing agency globally.

MacIntosh said warming relations between Beijing and Taipei had reduced cross-strait tensions and had a positive impact on Taiwan-Canada relations as exemplified by the signing and renewing of various memorandums of understanding on an array of issues including economic consultation, Aboriginal policy, and science and technology.

Rosaline Kwan, director of the Trade and Investment section at CTOT, said Taiwan was Canada's No. 4 trade partner in Asia and No. 13 worldwide. Trade volume last year was US\$4.7 billion, an increase from the previous year despite the global economic situation.

Filipina realizes long-held dream of college graduation

STAFF WRITER, WITH CNA

Love changes everything.

When Rosel Be obtained her bachelor's degree from National Kaohsiung University late last month, the Philippine native understood fully what those three words mean.

Be's journey to love began in 1999, when she had to stop her life as a university freshman to earn a living because her family could no longer afford to cover her tuition.

She obtained a job at an electronics factory in Nanzih (楠梓), Kaohsiung City, but she remitted the bulk of her meager salary to her family back home, leaving very little for herself.

Her dream of finishing her university studies became increasingly remote. Gradually, she began thinking about how she could earn more money to improve her family's livelihood after her three-year contract in Taiwan expired.

Then everything changed. Be met a Taiwanese engineer at her factory named Chu Yung-ren (朱永仁), who encouraged her to pursue her dream and offered her sympathy when she plunged into depression.

The friendship developed into



Rosel Be, left, holds up her university diploma after obtaining a bachelor's degree from National Kaohsiung University on June 20. PHOTO: CNA

a relationship and when, after her contract expired, the time came for her to leave Taiwan, Chu asked for her hand in marriage.

Be chose to stay in Taiwan, now a wife. Driven by her desire to finish college, she enrolled in the Department of Western Languages and Literature at National Kaohsiung University and immersed herself in her studies.

On Saturday, she graduated *summa cum laude* and was admitted to the Graduate Institute of

Foreign Languages and Literature at National Sun Yat-Sen University, also in Kaohsiung.

Be, who still struggles a little with Mandarin, jumped into her husband's arms after receiving her diploma at the commencement ceremony, saying she could not have made those achievements without him.

She is now looking forward to her graduate studies, with high hopes that she will be able to obtain a teaching job after earning her master's degree.

US celebrates its 233rd birthday with a splash at Taichung bonanza

BY JENNY W. HSU
STAFF REPORTER

With the smell of freshly grilled cheeseburgers and sounds of live band music in the air, the annual Fourth of July festival in Taichung City kicked off with a blast on Saturday, attracting a large crowd for celebrations of the US' 233rd birthday.

Hailed as one of the largest foreign community events in the city, the organizer — the American Chamber of Commerce Taichung — delivered on its promise to give Americans and other expatriates a taste from back home.

Splashed with red, blue and white banners and American flags, the festivity featured 28 vendor booths sponsored by the city's leading restaurants and hotels.

Games, food, music — even a poker table — as well as a full-line up of local bands playing jazz, blues, funk and country music, made the event an unforgettable experience.

While many fair goers danced to the music, others relaxed and caught up with old friends on the lawn.

"This is awesome. This is what I would do on July 4th ... barbecue, hamburgers on the grill, beer, and hanging out barefoot at the park," said Kate Harman, a native of San Diego teaching English in Nantou as she sat on a blanket with her friend, Farra Williams of Oklahoma.

David Chen (陳家威), a computer engineer from Taipei, said he and his friends had been looking forward to the event because of the "great food and amazing music."

"This reminds me the Independence Day celebration I went to when I was studying in the US a few years ago," he said.

Throughout the day, the Taichung AmCham also sold tickets for a charity raffle, with all the proceeds going to Taichung AmCham's KIDZ charity program and benefiting local orphans and children with special needs.

THERE'S GOOD NEWS, THERE'S BAD NEWS.

The *Taipei Times* was founded to provide a balanced alternative to other print media whose editorial policies ignored the perspectives and aspirations of a majority of Taiwanese.

That was **10 years** ago.

Over the years we've reported on Taiwan's worst earthquake in a lifetime, the rise and fall of a president, SARS and all of the political machinations that a decade of news can supply. We've also reported on hundreds of people and organizations whose contributions to society deserved to be recorded.

We've worked hard to make Taiwan's voice heard — in all its complexity. And we will continue to do so as Taiwan makes controversial steps toward a political deal with China. Our commitment is to ensure you receive all the information you need to know about what is happening — and why.

The bad news is that around the world the print media are under siege because of the Internet and the global economic crisis.

The good news is that the *Taipei Times* will continue to publish in print and online, continuing to provide the nation's most reliable and comprehensive English-language coverage of Taiwanese news, as well as Taiwan's best international news and sports digest in any language — all part of a package supervised by our multi-award-winning design team.

Taiwan faces an uncertain future. Good news or bad, the *Taipei Times* will keep you on top of what happens next.

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OPINION

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