

Chronology of Events *(November 16 – December 15)*

November 2010

16

National Security Bureau (NSB) Director Tsai Der-sheng revealed that hackers had attacked the NSB website 4.99 million times between January and October this year and that 598,000 of the attacks came from China. The frequency of these attacks was as high as 11.56 times per minute.

16

The latest poll by broadcaster Japan's ANN (All-nippon News Network) showed that public approval rating for Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan's cabinet plunged below 30% to 28.5%, down 17.3 percentage points from the broadcaster's previous survey two months ago.

17

The Japanese government was scheduled to amend the National Defense Program Guidelines (NDPG) at the end of this year. The NDPG draft proposed that, in the face of China's naval build-up, the Japanese government should establish a new National Security Council and expand its ground troops responsible for the defense of the country's southwestern islands.

18

Taiwanese taekwondo athlete Yang Shu-chun was disqualified at the Asian Games due to a spat about sensors in her socks. World Taekwondo Federation secretary general Yang Jin-cuk of South Korea flip-flopped on statements about Yang's case in an international press conference, sparking a public furor in Taiwan.

19

According to a CNN poll, 58% of Americans believe that China's growing economic strength is a threat to America and 35% of Americans say that China's economic power is more of an opportunity for the United States.

20

The Japanese Defense Ministry was considering increasing the number of fighter planes at the Air Self-Defense Force base in Naha from 20 to 30 over the next decade, so as to strengthen interception capabilities in emergency situations and prevent airspace invasion.

22

Taiwan Solidarity Union (TSU) Chairman Huang Kun-huei led supporters to submit more than 97,000 petition signatures to the Central Election Commission requesting to refer the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) to a referendum. It was the third time that the initiative met the required petition signature quota. The Executive Yuan's Referendum Review Committee has previously turned down two ECFA referendum initiatives proposed by the TSU.

23

North Korea bombarded the South Korean-held island of Yeonpyeong, which is located in the Yellow Sea west of the Korean Peninsula and near North and South Korea's disputed sea border, at 2 p.m. local time in Seoul. South Korea immediately returned artillery fire with about 80 rounds, scrambled F-16 fighter jets, and lifted the state of its military readiness to the highest level short of war.

24

In response to Ireland's major ongoing economic crisis, the Irish government announced that it will cut spending by about 20% and raise taxes over the next four years to narrow the budget deficit to 3% of gross domestic product by the end of 2014.

25

Minister of Foreign Affairs Yang Chin-tien announced that, starting in January, Republic of China passport holders will enjoy visa-free privileges when traveling to 35 European countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Norway, Spain, Portugal, and Denmark.

26

On the eve of the five special municipality elections, Sean Lien, a member of the Chinese Nationalist Party's (KMT) Central Standing Committee, was grabbed by force and shot in the face by a local gangster, Lin Cheng-wei, while campaigning for Chen Hung-yuan, a KMT Xinbei city councilor candidate. A man named Huang Yun-sheng in the rally was hit in the head in the shooting and was killed.

27

The five special municipality elections concluded. The KMT retained three seats, with its candidates Hau Lung-bin, Eric Chu, and Jason Hu respectively elected as mayors of Taipei, Xinbei, and Taichung. The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) gained two seats, with its candidates William Lai and Chen Chu elected as mayors of Tainan and Kaohsiung, respectively. The DPP garnered 49.87% of all votes cast, outstripping the KMT's 44.54%, which meant the DPP won over 400,000 votes more than the KMT in the total vote-count.

28

The United States and South Korea began four-day joint naval exercises in the Yellow Sea. The U.S. deployed the nuclear-powered USS George Washington aircraft carrier to join the exercises, which took place in waters only 125 kilometers off the coast of North Korea.

30

The WikiLeaks website published confidential U.S. diplomatic dispatches, exposing that the Chinese government once said Beijing could ultimately accept the Korean Peninsula unifying under South Korea's control.

December 2010

1

The WikiLeaks website exposed a secret cable originating in the U.S. embassy in Beijing, which stated a Chinese official told an American diplomat in April last year that Taiwan's participation as an observer in last year's World Health Assembly demonstrated that consultations based on a "one China, very broadly interpreted" principle could bring "one step forward" toward better cross-strait relations.

2

Former Taiwanese president Chen Shui-bian was transferred from the Taipei Detention Center to Taipei Prison in the afternoon to formally begin serving his sentence after the Supreme Court upheld his conviction on corruption charges.

3

The Central Election Commission passed the ECFA referendum initiative proposed by a group led by TSU Chairman Huang Kun-huei and sent the proposal to the Executive Yuan's Referendum Review Committee for approval.

3

The U.S. and Japan began their biggest ever joint military exercises that lasted eight days. The drill took place both in the Sea of Japan and off Japan's southwestern islands in the Pacific Ocean, including Okinawa. South Korea sent military officers to observe the exercises for the first time, showing the strong solidarity between the U.S., Japan, and South Korea.

5

Following the Ministry of the Interior's lowering the property value threshold for public assistance, statistics revealed that the number of low-income households totaled 110,055 in the third quarter of 2010, accounting for 267,717 people. Both numbers hit record highs.

6

WikiLeaks' divulgence of a U.S. Department of State cable exposed several landing sites for Taiwan-related undersea cable networks. These sites included Fangshan, Tamsui, Bali, Toucheng, and Kaohsiung Harbor.

7

According to statistics published by the Ministry of Finance, the amount of central government debt has exceeded NT\$4.3 trillion (US\$141 billion), indicating an average debt burden of approximately NT\$200,000 for each citizen. If local government debt is included, total government debt could reach over NT\$5 trillion.

8

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg spoke publicly for the first time about the U.S.' support for Taiwan's participation in institutions or organizations related to climate change, adding that Washington would be pleased to see both sides of the Taiwan Strait work together in international organizations where the membership is not based on being a sovereign state, so as to achieve progress in Taiwan's engagement with world bodies.

9

Lien Chan, honorary chairman of the KMT, was awarded the first-ever Confucius Peace Prize organized by five Chinese academics. As Lien did not attend the award ceremony, a little Chinese girl who has no relation with Lien was arranged to receive the award on Lien's behalf.

14

A hearing on a Kuokuang Petrochemical Technology development project was held in Dacheng Township, Changhua County, during which supporters and opponents of the project clashed continuously. The meeting concluded after five hours of chaos.

10

The award ceremony of the Nobel Peace Prize took place in Oslo city hall in the capital of Norway. This year's winner, Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo, was imprisoned and could not travel to Oslo for the ceremony. The Nobel Committee placed the Peace Prize diploma and gold medal on an empty chair reserved for the absent Liu to pay tribute to him.

14

The New Taiwan dollar surged over NT\$0.6 to NT\$29.89, its strongest level in 13 years in the morning session against the U.S. currency.

11

United Nations climate change talks attended by envoys from 193 countries in Cancun, Mexico, agreed to a package aimed at opening a US\$100 billion Green Climate Fund to aid poorer nations, protecting tropical rainforests, sharing clean energy technologies, and assisting developing countries with adjusting to climate change.

12

A survey by the Executive Yuan's Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics revealed that as many as 1.04 million employees in Taiwan average less than NT\$20,000 in monthly pay this year, up 200,000 people compared with the figure recorded before the global financial crisis. The rise in the low-income population has been increasingly closely linked to atypical types of employment.
