

Elections in Taiwan: Scare by a Chinese Satellite

January 9, 2024

January 9, 2024: Taiwan votes on Saturday, January 13, 2024 for a new President and Parliament.

Lai Ching-te, the Presidential candidate of the **Democratic Progressive Party (DPP)** Taiwan's ruling party, said on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 that he would maintain the policy direction of incumbent President **Tsai Ing-wen** (photograph shown above), if elected, and remain open to engagement with Beijing under the principle of equality and dignity.

Dr. Lai Ching-te, born in 1959 in New Taipei City's Wanli District, worked as the head of a **Tainan Physicians Association**, which supported Chen Ting-nan, the DPP candidate for governor. During the **1996 Taiwan Strait Crisis**, **Dr. Lai** decided to enter politics. In 1998, **Dr. Lai** was elected to the **Legislative Yuan** (Taiwan's Parliament), **representing Tainan City**. Leveraging his medical expertise, he played a dynamic role in the **Social Welfare and Environmental Hygiene Committee**. **Dr. Lai** put equal emphasis on **professional governance** and service, and Tainan citizens elected him to the legislature for **four consecutive terms (1999-2010)**. part of a lobby group promoting Taiwan's World Health Organization (WHO) membership, making seven trips to 22 countries including Korea, Japan, the United States, and European Union member states. In 2004, **Dr. Lai** was also chosen to participate in the US Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program.

In 2010, **Dr. Lai** was elected as the first mayor of the Tainan Special Municipality. Running for re-election in 2014, **Dr. Lai** garnered 72.9% of the vote, the highest percentage in Tainan history, and the highest for any county or city head since the lifting of martial law in 1987. President **Tsai Ing-wen's** invited **Dr. Lai Ching-te** to be her Vice-Presidential running mate in the 1920's election. DPP retained a legislative majority. The Tsai-Lai ticket rode to victory with a record-high of 8.17 million votes. In **May 2020**, **Dr. Lai** was officially sworn in as the **15th-term Vice President**. In **January 2023**, **Dr. Lai** began concurrently serving as **DPP chairperson**.



2024 Taiwan Presidential Candidate of DPP

Lai Ching-te

"Peace is priceless and war has no winners," **Lai** told reporters in a press conference in which he appeared alongside his Vice Presidential running mate **Hsiao Bi-khim**.

Lai also said if elected, Taiwan would continue to build up its **defence deterrence** amid geopolitical tensions. Since the last election in 2020, China's **People's Liberation Army (PLA)** has markedly stepped up military exercises around Taiwan.

Lai told reporters the election will serve as a "**testament to our commitment to democracy**" while also noting that **China's interference in this election** has been the "most intense" yet.

Taiwan has cited **military and economic pressure** and **fake news from China** as evidence of its attempt to interfere in the election and said it was documenting it and will publish its analysis soon after the vote.

Taiwan's 8th direct Presidential and Parliamentary elections are scheduled to be held on January 13, 2024. Taiwan's 19.5 Mn voters out of a population of 24 Mn

people, through the results of the election, will define the next phase of Taiwan's foreign policy and have implications for key allies like the USA and Japan.

The election is being closely watched by the world, which has the central theme of **how Taiwan should deal with China**, which has never ruled the democratic island but still claims it as its territory and refuses to rule out a military attack.

The Kuomintang (KMT) party, the main opposition, has nominated **Hou Yu-ih** as its Presidential candidate and **Jaw Shaw-kong** as his running mate for the upcoming elections. **Hou** is the current **mayor of New Taipei City**. He is known for his **pro-China stance** and has promised to improve cross-strait relations if elected. He has also pledged to boost Taiwan's economy by increasing investment and creating job opportunities. **Jaw** is a **prominent Taiwanese television personality and talk show host**. He is known for his **moderate views on cross-strait relations** and has advocated for **peaceful dialogue between Taiwan and China**. If elected, **Jaw** has promised to ensure that Taiwan's sovereignty is protected.



*2024 Taiwan Presidential Candidate of DPP
Hou Yu-ih*

Hou was elected to the Legislative Yuan in 1993. He has since held various positions in the government, including **Minister of Transportation and Communications** and **Vice Premier**. **Hou** was elected as the Mayor of New Taipei City in 2018.

China ramped up pressure on Taiwan ahead of the elections and threatened new trade measures against Taiwan on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 3.

SCARE caused by a CHINESE SATELLITE: In addition, a Chinese satellite triggered an island-wide air raid alert on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, interrupting a news conference held by Taiwanese Foreign Minister **Joseph Wu**.

On Thursday, 5th January, 2023, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, former Secretary General of NATO (2009-14) and a former Danish prime minister (2001-09) said in Taipei that Democratic countries must make it clear to China that if China should move against self-governed Taiwan, severe economic consequences would follow.

BACKGROUND: China has been openly threatening to annex Taiwan by force and regularly sends Chinese air force sorties into Taiwanese air-space.

Taiwan says that **the People's Republic of China has never governed the island and the people of Taiwan should be able to decide their own future.**

The democratic world has, till now, not taken a clear stand in favor of Taiwan.

An UNAMBIGUOUS STAND on the islands comprising the Taiwan Area under the jurisdiction of the Republic of China (including Penghu, Kinmen, Matsu, Wuqiu, Tungsha/Dongsha and Nansha and others administered by ROC) Must Be Taken By A Forum Of All The Major Democratic Countries by saying that use of force by China will automatically lead to economic sanctions. China is far more reliant on global supply chains than Russia and a clear stand will be a good deterrent against any adventure by China.
