



# Nauru Bulletin

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## President Kun concludes Taiwan state visit

***Sustainable Partnership: Connectivity for Prosperity***

The Nauru-Taiwan relationship grows from strength to strength following President Russ Kun's inaugural Taiwan state visit in November.

President Kun concluded the five-day visit to the Republic of China (Taiwan), 14-19 November, less than two months after taking up the presidency.

The state visit is underscored by the theme 'Sustainable Partnership: Connectivity for Prosperity' - recognising the impacts of COVID-19 on Nauru's society and economy and requiring collective effort in initiating the process of economic recovery.

President Kun was accompanied by Minister for Justice Pyon Deiye and deputy ministers Asterio Appi, Isabella Dageago, Maverick Eoe, Jesse Jeremiah, and Delvin Thoma.

The well-recognised firm relationship of the two countries was reinforced in the signing of the joint communiqué by President Kun and Taiwan's Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Jaushieh Joseph Wu, reaffirming diplomatic relations therefore strengthening the bonds of friendship and the respect of one another's sovereignty.

"It's a relationship that's been there before my time, so it will remain as strong," President Kun said.

"We went there (Taiwan) to reiterate Nauru's relations with Taiwan that it will remain strong.



*President Russ Kun's inaugural state visit forges stronger ties with Taiwan*

"We have also secured funding support to build our stadiums for the Micronesian Games in 2026 and funding commitments are underway for a second vessel to service the Australian route."

President Kun was accorded a military guard of honour and 21-gun salute to mark the occasion then hosted to a state banquet by Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen.

"Over the past three decades, Nauru and Taiwan have cultivated a strong and enduring friendship that has been strengthened by our common obligation to uphold and respect the values of peace, freedom, democracy, and human rights," President Kun said during the ceremony.

Another show of cooperation was the coming into force of the first coast guard standard operating procedures (SOP) between Nauru and Taiwan at the formal exchange of documents by President Kun and Taiwan's Acting Minister of Ocean

Affairs Council Dr Mei-wu Chou.

Under the SOP the Nauru Police Force will lead coast guard operations with support from the Taiwan coast guard.

The SOP is advancement from the 2019 agreement on coast guard cooperation.

The delegation also met with the Taiwan International Ports Corporation, Chunghwa Telecom, the sports administration office, and the Taichung Veterans' General Hospital where Nauruan patients receive medical treatment.

The delegation took in the sights and sounds of Taiwan with a bird's eye view from Taipei 101 overlooking Taipei city from the observation deck on the 89th floor at a height of 382 metres. The delegation also visited the Museum of Formosan Aborigines, the National Palace Museum, and a trip on Taiwan's high speed rail to Taichung City on the western side of central Taiwan.

Taiwan has provided assistance to Nauru over the years in areas of infrastructure, health, agriculture and education, amongst others and the assurances of mutual support for each other is echoed during this visit.

Taiwan will continue to work with Nauru in key areas across climate change, economics and trade, green energy, information and communications, maritime security, police affairs, public health, sports and talent cultivation •

### President Kun and delegation warmly welcomed to Taiwan

His Excellency President Russ Kun, Madam Simina Kun and their delegation were greeted on arrival at Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport by Taiwan's Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Jaushieh Joseph Wu.

During the welcome meeting Minister Wu expressed his country's appreciation for Nauru's continued staunch support of Taiwan in international fora.

### President Kun accorded military honour, reaffirms Taiwan alliance

The following day was the official welcome ceremony at the Presidential Office in Taipei in which President Kun was accorded a military guard of honour marking the occasion of His Excellency's inaugural state visit.

In his statement during the ceremony, President Kun stated that the alliance between Nauru and Taiwan remains strong.



*President Kun is accompanied by Taiwan President Tsai for the inspection of the military guard of honour*

“This relationship is firmly engraved in our history, reinforced, and supported by mutual respect and admiration for each other, and over the years, our two countries have worked to strengthen this relationship further.”

President Kun also commends Taiwan's evolution as a democratic country.

“The prosperity and munificence reaped from your collective hard work are exemplary, representing the high morals and standards of its people.”

“Taiwan's positive and significant contribution to our (Nauru's) national sustainable goals is truly welcomed as the government and people of Nauru strive for a future of economic stability, sustainability, diversity, and growth.

“Taiwan has, in fact, been Nauru's steadfast ally partner over the years,” President Kun said adding he is “incredibly proud of the profound relationship and the commitment our two countries share.”

A 21-gun salute was performed by firing of cannons – a practice commonly recognised by many nations as the highest honour rendered.

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen then escorted President Kun to inspect the guard followed by the introductions of the individual members of the Nauru delegation, the Taiwan delegation, and the heads of foreign missions based in Taiwan.

### Bilateral Talks

The two presidents then retreated indoors to an open meeting with their respective delegations. President Kun reiterated that Nauru values its partnership with Taiwan “recognising that the partnership spans over thirty years and has matured into a genuine friendship.”



*President Kun says the Nauru-Taiwan relation has matured into genuine friendship*

“I acknowledge that the partnership between Nauru and Taiwan is premised and fostered over the years on mutually shared responsibilities to uphold and respect the universal values of peace, freedom, democracy, and human rights.”

President Kun specified that Nauru's long term national vision as articulated in its National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), is “a future where individual, community, business, and government partnerships contribute to a sustainable quality of life for all Nauruans,” – the central message of the NSDS being “Partnerships for Quality of Life”.

Before retreating to the closed door meeting, President Kun thanked President Tsai for her government's continued assistance to various sectors in Nauru including but not limited to infrastructure, health and medical care, agriculture, climate change, renewable energy, information technology, education, and its contribution to the intergenerational trust fund.

### State Banquet

Toasts to friendship, success and prosperity were exchanged between the two leaders at the state banquet hosted by President Tsai in honour of President Kun's state visit. President Kun returned the invitation to host President Tsai in Nauru.

“Taiwan has and continues to be a steadfast partner for the Republic of Nauru contributing to our economic development and sustainable aspirations,” President Kun said.



*Presidents toast to friendship, success and prosperity at state banquet for President Russ Kun*

“Taiwan support to Nauru has never wavered, regardless of whether it be in times of prosperity or when Nauru went through a severe economic slump and most recently during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

President Kun said the visit in the aftermath of COVID-19 is under the theme ‘Sustainable Partnership: Connectivity for Prosperity’.

“Recovery efforts will necessitate strengthening the quality and delivery of health, education, and social protection systems, improving land and marine infrastructure and connectivity within the region, and closing the digital divide through significant investment in ICT.”

**Taiwan backs Micro games and others including coast guard cooperation**

Taiwan’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Joseph Wu assures President Kun, “you have our commitment,” in response to Nauru’s request for support to build facilities for the 2026 Micronesian Games which Nauru will host.



*Deputy Sports Minister Jeremiah (centre) leads talks with Taiwan sports administration office on assistance for Micronesian Games*

Minister Wu says if the plans are mutually agreeable then Taiwan’s support is there. He says Taiwan is committed to similar support it has offered to the Marshall Islands’ Micronesian Games facilities through a soft loan arrangement.

Armed with infrastructure plans and design proposals Deputy Minister for Sports Jesse Jeremiah and Secretary for Sports Dagan Kaierua along with Secretary for Foreign Affairs Chitra Jeremiah and Nauru’s Ambassador to Taiwan Jarden Kephas, met earlier with Taiwan’s Deputy Director-General of Sports Administration Mr Chih-chang Hung to discuss the proposal. Taiwan’s commitment was later confirmed in the meeting with Minister Wu.

Nauru’s Ministry of Sports is now tasked with providing comprehensive specifications and costing for a track and field stadium and two indoor facilities for basketball, volleyball, weightlifting and powerlifting. Taiwan will also support athlete training in Taiwan and logistical support in Nauru to prepare for the games.

Furthermore, Minister Wu said Taiwan will also do more in terms of coast guard assistance and cooperation.

Minister Wu signed a coast guard agreement in 2019 which includes the provision of two patrol boats that are now in operation in Nauru managed by the Nauru Police Force.



*Joint communique builds on the already existing strong relations between the two countries*

**Joint communiqué reaffirms diplomatic relations**

President Kun and Foreign Minister Wu met at the Taipei Guest House to sign a joint communiqué reaffirming mutual agreement on shared responsibilities of the governments of Nauru and Taiwan in areas of expanding bilateral relations and cooperation, 15 November.

The communiqué also reiterates support for Taiwan’s participation in international organisations such as the United Nations, World Health Organisation, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the International Civil Aviation Organisation, and Interpol.

It also reaffirms that both states abide by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly as relates to respect for and promotion of equality amongst states, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in national affairs, international peace and security.

Both states recognise climate change as an existential threat to Nauru, and both respect the unique cultural and socio economic values, especially the universal vales of freedom, democracy and human rights.

These elements establish the foundation for the relationship between Nauru and Taiwan.

Shortly after the signing, Minister Wu and Mrs Wu hosted President Kun, Madam Kun and the Nauru delegation to dinner.

**Delegation visits Taiwan port**

As Minister for Nauru Ports, President Kun met with the Taiwan International Ports Corporation (TIPC) gaining insights into the planning and design of the Taiwan port and how Nauru could tap into a range of areas including shipping opportunities.

President Kun was accompanied by his delegation including Nauru Ports CEO Michael Nye and chairman Link Uera who



*Nauru explores shipping opportunities, terminal services and facilities*

later had comprehensive discussions with Taiwan port staff on terminal services and facilities.

Due to COVID-19 there had been limited movement for personnel, however with border restrictions easing TIPC says it's looking to send a team to Nauru this month, December, to further plans and a way forward in areas including capacity building and training for Nauru port staff.

TIPC is responsible for seven international ports and two domestic ports.

### Telecom

In a visit to Taiwan's Chunghwa Telecom company Minister for ICT Pyon Deiyee welcomed the establishment of partnership and cooperation between Nauru and Chunghwa, 16 November.

The partnership would be to improve Nauru's telephone and internet connectivity through significant investment in the ICT sector.



*Nauru is dependent on satellite internet and mindful of the digital divide between bigger countries and small island developing states like Nauru*

“Nauru's Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) prioritises ICT, with government committed to provide universal and reliable access to internationally competitive communication services and an independent and commercially viable media,” Minister Deiyee said.

He adds that the state visit is focused on the theme ‘Sustainable Partnership: Connectivity for Prosperity’, with particular attention on trade and investment diversification and recovery efforts, following the pandemic.

Nauru is currently dependent on satellite internet but is working with Australia, the US and Japan to establish laying the undersea internet fibre cable.

“We remain cognizant however on the inequity and digital divide between bigger countries and small island developing states like Nauru.”

Chunghwa Telecom established roaming partnership with Digicel Pacific in 2010 providing bilateral voice, SMS and data roaming services to each other.

Both parties signed a mutual discount agreement in 2014 and include Fiji extending to Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Digicel Fiji shares the same roaming coverage with Digicel Nauru providing SMS and 3G/4G roaming services for Chunghwa Telecom's customers when roaming in their networks.

Chunghwa has won a plethora of awards including the Taiwan

Telecommunication Services company of the year award for 2021 and 2022 and the Taiwan 5G services customer value leadership award for 2022.

### Coast Guard SOP comes into effect, Nauru Police takes lead

The first coast guard standard operating procedures (SOP) between Nauru and Taiwan came into force on 17 November at the formal exchange of documents between President Kun and Taiwan's Acting Minister of Ocean Affairs Council Dr Mei-wu Chou during the President's state visit to Taiwan.



*The arrangement on coast guard cooperation comes full circle at the formal exchange of documents in Taiwan*

The SOP was signed in Nauru in September between Commissioner of Police Iven Notte and Taiwan officials at the handover of two Taiwan-donated patrol boats.

President Kun is pleased that Nauru's coast guard security has advanced from the 2019 agreement on coast guard cooperation.

The SOP provides joint maritime operations in Nauru's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) with Taiwan's coast guard and the Nauru Police Force (NPF).

Three coast guard operations will be carried out three times a year between the Taiwan coast guard and the NPF.

In terms of operations, the Taiwan coast guard will arrive in Nauru with their patrol boats and the service will commence in April 2023.

The SOP also provides for capacity building training, and articulates that Nauru and Taiwan will be responsible for any injuries incurred by their staff during operations. However, first aid response can be rendered by the Taiwanese staff during training and operations.

The NPF will also have the opportunity to train in Taiwan on boarding operations and procedures.

Commissioner of Police Iven Notte says the SOP is great progress that it provides structure and clearer planning.

Nauru will take the lead on operations in Nauru waters with the Taiwan coast guard as the support.

COP Notte says under Nauru law the Taiwanese coast guards can also be sworn in as reserves, at sea, to perform NPF duties at sea.

The SOP will be reassessed along the way as needed.

### Taichung Veterans' General Hospital

Two Nauruan patients currently undergoing treatment at Taiwan's Taichung Veterans' General Hospital met with President Russ Kun during the state visit.

President Kun and the delegation were warmly welcomed at the Taichung Veterans' General Hospital where 5,308 Nauruans have received life-altering medical treatment.

The two patients currently receiving treatment at Taichung General say they are receiving the best care.

The delegation toured the hospital including a demonstration of an apparatus that checks for one's overall health such as weight, muscle density and levels of diabetes and body fat.

Taichung Veterans' General Hospital is a tertiary healthcare provider and has partnered with Nauru's Ministry of Health since 2013. Taichung General sends health professionals on mobile medical missions to Nauru and receives patients in Taiwan for conditions that required extensive or specialised treatment.

The delegation also met the specialist team of an ophthalmologist, cardiovascular and reconstructive plastic surgeon who later visited Nauru and saw patients from 29 November to 9 December.

In the grips of COVID-19, while international borders were tightly shut, the Taiwan Embassy in Nauru successfully

negotiated with Taiwan officials and the TVGH to accept Nauruan patients. In 2021 three charters were arranged to take 104 patients plus family escorts to Taiwan for treatment.

**Embassy, students host Presidential delegation**

Nauruan students studying in Taiwan were delighted to host His Excellency President Russ Kun, Madam Simina Kun and the delegation over dinner coupled with a delayed Angam day celebration.

Ambassador to Taiwan Jarden Kephas said the small Nauru community in Taiwan delayed Angam celebrations due to COVID nonetheless the President's visit was the perfect time for it.

The students entertained with song and dance and the delegation responded by filling the money basket much to the joy of the students.

Prior to the dinner, the delegation toured the Nauru Embassy and the ambassador's residence which are both located in the same diplomatic quarters compound •



*Top (L-R): President Kun is accompanied by Taiwan President Tsai for the inspection of the military guard of honour; President Kun and Madam Kun with patients and doctors at Taichung Veterans General Hospital.*

*Bottom (L-R): Delegation visits the Museum of Formosan Aborigines: Dinner with students and embassy staff in Taiwan*

The Nauru Bulletin is a fortnightly publication of the Government of the Republic of Nauru.

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