



Chiang Pin-kung (right), chairman of Taiwan's Straits Exchange Foundation, presents a lacquer painting to Chen Yunlin, president of the mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, in Taipei on Thursday after they signed two agreements to boost investment and customs cooperation across the Straits.

FANG JUNZHE / FOR CHINA DAILY

# Agreements expected to boost cross-Straits trade

By TAN ZONGYANG  
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The mainland and Taiwan signed two agreements on Thursday — on investment protection and promotion, and customs cooperation — that will further boost two-way capital and trade flows across the Straits, experts said.

The two agreements were inked in Taipei by Chen Yunlin, president of the Beijing-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, and Chiang Pin-kung, chairman of the Taipei-based Straits Exchange Foundation, during the eighth round of talks held since 2008.

The long-awaited investment protection and promotion agreement, which took two years to negotiate, will offer investors from the two sides "just and fair treatment" in matters of personal safety and when settling disputes over investment projects by arbitration.

The mainland and Taiwan pledged to simplify customs procedures, improve the efficiency of customs clearance and enhance the supervision of cargo for cross-Straits trade in order to facilitate the implemen-

tation of the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement.

"The agreements will offer systematic protection of investors' rights and interests," Chen Yunlin was quoted by the Xinhua News Agency as saying.

"It's extremely important, not only for Taiwan's investment and trade links with the mainland, but also for bilateral ties as a whole," Chiang Pin-kung told reporters after signing the agreement.

"It will also provide different ways to protect Taiwan's business interests on the mainland when disputes take place," he added.

In the agreements, the mainland and Taiwan promised to provide equal treatment for investors from both sides.

The two sides published a statement of common understanding on personal freedom and safety issues related to the investment protection and promotion agreement.

The statement said that after detaining a Taiwan resident who works on the mainland for a company that has Taiwan investment, the mainland's police should inform the detainee's relatives within 24

hours. If the relatives do not live on the mainland, police should inform the detainee's employer. The same rules will be applied to Taiwan police.

"The consensus on judicial practice was a major breakthrough. It used to be a tough part of the negotiation," said Ni Yongjie, a researcher at the Shanghai Institute of Taiwan Studies.

Tang Yonghong, a researcher on cross-Straits economic ties at Xiamen University, said the agreements will not only improve protection of investments but also stimulate two-way funding flows.

"Although mainland companies have been allowed to invest in Taiwan since 2009, the investment amount is only about \$300 million, far less than the investment that Taiwan people have made on the mainland," Tang said. The investment on the mainland from Taiwan last year alone reached \$13.1 billion, according to statistics from Taiwan commerce authorities.

In the new agreements, the two sides agreed to gradually remove restrictions on investment projects, create a fair environment and promote two-way

investment. Tang hailed these developments as a stimulus to change the current unbalanced situation.

"If there are fewer restrictions for investment from the mainland, the two sides can strengthen economic and trade cooperation and stand together to fight the global economic downturn."

Ni said the two agreements will eventually contribute to people's livelihoods on both sides of the Straits.

"Under the new customs deal, more fresh fruits can be imported from Taiwan at a faster speed and cheaper price," he said, adding that both exporters and consumers will benefit.

Founded in 1990 and 1991 respectively, the Straits Exchange Foundation and the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits are authorized by the mainland and Taiwan to handle cross-Straits affairs.

The two sides have signed 18 cross-Straits agreements since 2008, ranging from intellectual property rights protection to nuclear safety cooperation.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

## TIME LINE

The mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits was set up in 1991, one year after Taiwan set up the Straits Exchange Foundation.

A series of agreements was reached during the talks between the two societies since their establishment.

• **1993 April, Singapore**  
Icebreaking talks were held and agreement reached on an institutional meeting mechanism.

• **1998 October, Shanghai**  
Agreement was reached on initiating talks on various topics, including politics and the economy.

• **2008 June, Beijing**  
The first formal cross-Straits talks were held since the dialogue was suspended following the 1998 talks in Shanghai.

Agreements were reached on weekend charter flights across the Straits, and on allowing and encouraging mainland tourists to visit Taiwan.

• **2008 November, Taipei**  
Agreements were reached on opening-up trade, transport and postal service across the Straits.

• **2009 April, Nanjing, Jiangsu province**  
An agreement was reached to make a joint effort on cracking down on crime and on facilitating mainland companies to invest in Taiwan.

• **2009 December, Taichung, Taiwan**  
Agreements were reached to protect the rights of fishermen and sailors, and on the quarantine standard of products.

• **2010 June, Chongqing**  
A landmark trade deal, the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement, was signed to remove tariffs across the Straits.

The agreement states that the two sides will remove tariffs on 539 items exported from Taiwan to the mainland worth \$13.84 billion as well as 267 mainland export items to Taiwan valued at \$2.86 billion within two years.

An agreement on intellectual property rights protection was also signed.

• **2010 December, Taipei**  
An agreement was signed on medicine and sanitation.

• **2011 October, Tianjin**  
An agreement was signed on cross-Straits nuclear safety cooperation.

• **2012 August, Taipei**  
Two agreements were signed on investment protection and promotion, as well as customs cooperation.

# Five in court over sale of teen's kidney

By CAO YIN in Beijing and WEN XINZHENG in Changsha



**My son was tempted by the illegal organ traders and might have been afraid of getting caught with such a large amount of money, so he bought a cell phone and a tablet PC."**

OU LINCHUN  
WANG SHANGKUN'S MOTHER

Five people, including a surgeon, have gone on trial in Central China in connection with the removal and sale of the kidney of a teenager, who used the money he received to buy an iPhone and iPad 2.

Judges heard on Thursday how Wang Shangkun, 18, has been left seriously ill after undergoing an illegal transplant operation in Chenzhou, Hunan province, last year.

The defendants, who are accused of intentional injury and illegal organ trading, face three to 10 years in prison. Four others who are suspected of playing a minor role in the incident face fines.

According to documents from Beihu district people's court, Wang Shangkun, who lives in Anhui province, made contact with the illegal agency online and agreed to a deal to sell his kidney.

The suspected mastermind, He Wei, said during the trial on Thursday that Wang, who was 17 at the time, had been "willing" to receive the surgery.

He, who prosecutors claim arranged kidney transplants to pay his debts, contacted Yin Shen and Tang Shimin, who in turn found Su Kaizong, who works at a military hospital in the city and had access to an operating room.

Song Zhongyu, a specialist urinary surgeon, was said to have been hired to perform the operation, which took place in April 2011.

The kidney was later sold to a man identified in the court indictment as Huang, from Gansu province, in exchange for 150,000 yuan (\$23,500) and \$10,000 in cash.

Wang received just 22,000 yuan, with the rest of the money divided by the gang, prosecutors said.

When he returned home, his mother noticed he was weak and soon learned what had happened. She then called police in Chenzhou.

"The case is complicated and involves a juvenile, so it's not suitable for us to disclose more details," Huang Wujiang, who works at the court, said on Thursday.

Wang, who is still in very poor health, was unable to attend the hearing. However, his mother, Ou Linchun, told court her son had not sold his kidney to buy Apple products.

"My son was tempted by the illegal organ traders and might have been afraid of getting caught with such a large amount of money, so he bought a cell phone and a tablet PC," she said.

The case is expected to last until Friday, when judges

may announce a verdict.

Zhao Li, a criminal lawyer at Beijing King and Bond Law Firm, said organ transplants from living donors are only legal between relatives.

"Organ transplants by illegal groups are harmful to providers and receivers," he said. "The punishment for wrongdoers should be severe."

His comments were echoed by Zhai Xiaomei, a professor of bioethics at Peking Union Medical College.

Zhai said organ transplants are risky for healthy adults, let alone a young boy.

"Patients must be taken good care of and have enough nutrition after receiving organ transplant surgery, or else they will face great damage to their health," she said.

Not all doctors and hospitals have qualifications to perform organ transplant surgeries, she warned, which means the surgery will have a high risk for providers if it was performed by unqualified medical staff.

Sang Biao, a professor of psychology at East China Normal University, said some juveniles cannot resist the lure of material goods, although they can realize such surgery can be harmful.

"The young man might fail to tell his parents what he was going to undergo before the tragedy happened, and the adults didn't guide him on how to face material life in the right way," he said.

The Ministry of Public Security said on Saturday that 137 suspects were caught in the latest crackdown on human organ trafficking.

The investigation was conducted at the end of July by 18 provincial authorities, who rescued 127 potential organ suppliers, according to the ministry.

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Feng Zhiwei in Changsha contributed to this story.

# Deal to boost mainland visitors to Taiwan

By TAN ZONGYANG

Another four cities on the Chinese mainland have been approved to grant individual tourist visits to Taiwan, accord-

ing to a deal reached between the two sides on Wednesday.

The mainland's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits and Taiwan's Taiwan Strait Tourism Asso-

ciation reached the deal to allow residents from Ji'nan, Xi'an, Fuzhou and Shenzhen to visit Taiwan as individual tourists starting Aug 28.

Shao Qiwei, president of the Beijing-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits, said another 11 mainland cities in Zhejiang, Jiangxi and Guangdong provinces on the western side of the Taiwan Straits will be allowed to send individual tourists to Taiwan's Jinmen, Penghu and Matsu islands starting Aug 28.

Shao is also director of the National Tourism Administration.

Taiwan first opened its doors to individual tourists from three mainland cities — Beijing, Shanghai and Xiamen — in June 2011.

The pilot program was expanded to six more cities — Tianjin, Chongqing, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Guangzhou and Chengdu — on April 28.

The total number of visits made by people from both sides surged from 4.7 million in 2008 to 7.05 million last year, with an

annual growth rate of 14 percent, Shao said.

During that period, tourists spent \$27.8 billion, which provided a great boost to the cross-Straits tourism market, he added.

More than 1.3 million mainland tourists visited Taiwan during the first half of 2012, up 50.7 percent year-on-year, he said. He predicted that the number of trips across the Taiwan Straits will reach 13 million in 2016 and 20 million by 2020.

The Chinese mainland is currently the largest source of tourists for Taiwan, making up about 30 percent of the island's visitors, Shao said.

Taiwan is the third-largest source of tourists for the mainland, accounting for 6 percent of inbound tourists.

Shao said the huge market scale will further boost the transportation business across the Straits as well as the island's tourist reception facilities such as hotels and restaurants, which could provide more business opportunities and jobs for local people.

**Beijing Huiyuan Media Village Apartment**

Beijing Huiyuan Media Village (Huiyuan Service Apartment) is located in the central area of the business district of the Olympic and Asian Games villages, about 500 meters away from the National Stadium (the Bird's Nest). As the media village of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, it was home to more than 1,000 Chinese and foreign journalists. It offers a number of different varieties of apartments. Spacious and well-lit, they have ample facilities and furnishings and are suitable for residential or business use. Businesses may be registered here and it is ideal for individual business or tourist customers.

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## BE VERY GENTLE

PHOTO BY TIAN BAOXI / FOR CHINA DAILY

Three visitors to the Beijing World Parks challenge their nerves during an elephant massage on Wednesday.