

Instances of China's Interference with Taiwan's International Presence

December 12, 2018

1.	January 4, 2018	China's civil aviation administration announced on its official website without prior consultation with the government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) that it was unilaterally launching the northbound M503 flight route and three east-west extension routes, thereby gravely affecting the aviation safety and welfare of the people of Taiwan.
2.	Since January 12, 2018	China has been pressuring US-based Marriott International and other international companies to stop listing Taiwan as a country on their official websites. In addition, China's civil aviation administration has demanded that 24 foreign airlines with flights through Chinese airspace check to see if their websites and apps list Taiwan as a country or nationality. These airlines were also given a strict deadline to make all needed changes. Xinhuanet, a mouthpiece of the China government, also warned numerous well-known international brands that list Taiwan as a country on their Chinese and English websites.
3.	February	The Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Toronto demanded that the birthplace of parents be registered as "Taiwan, Province of China," rather than "Taiwan," on the birth certificates of their newborn children. Otherwise, the children would be denied visas to China.
4.	February 8	In the wake of the February 6 earthquake in Hualien, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent a

		<p>letter of condolence to Taiwan and posted a photo of a handwritten message showing the characters for “Chin up, Taiwan” on the Facebook page of his official residence, as well as a video of himself writing the message on his personal Facebook page. He said that Japan still remembered the support received from Taiwan following the March 11, 2011 earthquake in his country, and that he would do his utmost to assist Taiwan. China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly protested that Japan’s condolences were a public attempt to create “one China, one Taiwan” in the international community, and urged Japan to immediately correct its mistake so as not to disrupt their bilateral relations.</p>
5.	February 12	<p>China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on its WeChat account that the Papua New Guinea government changed the name of the Trade Mission of the Republic of China (on Taiwan) in Papua New Guinea to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Papua New Guinea. The post also stated that the PNG government confiscated the diplomatic license plates of the vehicles owned by the office and its staff. Spokesperson Geng Shuang expressed great approval and praise for this move.</p>
6.	February 25, 2018	<p>Hakka compatriots in Mauritius invited Deputy Minister of Hakka Affairs Fan Tso-ming to attend a local Hakka food festival from February 28 to March 7. However, as the event was to display a banner listing the ROC Hakka Affairs Council and the ROC Overseas Community Affairs Council, as well as an ROC national flag, China demanded that the Mauritius</p>

		government cancel the event, threatened to block the ROC delegation members' entry into the country, and claimed that Mauritius was going to cancel landing visa treatment for ROC nationals. To uphold the ROC's national dignity, the Hakka Affairs Council refused to make any concessions and decided to cancel Deputy Minister Fan's visit to Mauritius.
7.	March 1	With regard to the Taiwan Travel Act passed by the US Congress, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed strong discontent and opposition, demanding that the US rectify the matter.
8.	March	AirAsia listed the location for Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport and Kaohsiung International Airport as "Taiwan, China."
9.	March	Under pressure from China, Scandinavian Airlines changed its original designation for Taiwan to "Taipei, China" on its online booking system.
10.	March	Taiwan lodged a strong protest with the WHO Secretariat after the WHO exerted pressure on the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations to change the national designation of the Federation of Medical Students in Taiwan to "Taiwan, China."
11.	March 8	German companies Deutsche Lufthansa and Mercedes-Benz added "China" to their reference to Taiwan on their websites.
12.	March 12	The Swedish Tax Agency changed its designation of Taiwan from Republic of China(Taiwan) to "Province of China, Taiwan."

13.	March 22	US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Alex Wong visited Taiwan, drawing comments from China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson that those who wish to play the Taiwan card or have other objectives in mind should carefully read Chinese leader Xi Jinping's important remarks and speak and act with caution when dealing with the Taiwan issue.
14.	March 29	Organizers of the Man Booker International Prize changed the nationality of Taiwanese nominee Professor Wu Ming-yi from "Taiwan" to "Taiwan, China."
15.	April 18	Taiwanese actor Chang Chen was listed as a Chinese national in the jury lineup announced by organizers of the Cannes Film Festival.
16.	April 27	US monthly magazine <i>Foreign Affairs</i> reported that China's Civil Aviation Administration had sent letters to US-based United Airlines and American Airlines demanding that they remove all references to Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau as independent countries and adhere to China's restrictions on separatism. On May 5, the White House issued a statement condemning this action while also confirming that China had sent letters to 36 foreign air carriers demanding that Taiwan not be listed as a country.
17.	April 28	Under heavy pressure from China's Foreign Ministry, the government of Jordan changed the name of the Commercial Office of the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

18.	April 30	China pressured organizers of the 14th International City Festival to remove the ROC national flag displayed in the booth of Taiwan's diplomatic mission in Jordan, causing a commotion when Taiwanese diplomats promptly lodged a strong protest with the organizers.
19.	May to July	New York City's Soo Yuen Benevolent Association, a traditional overseas compatriot society friendly to Taiwan, decided to start displaying China's five-starred flag at an internal meeting this May. Chinese Embassy personnel visited the association in June to further curry favor with the members. The association announced in July that it would start flying the PRC flag on August 19, the association's anniversary.
20.	May	Under pressure from China, Mongolian Airlines changed the airport designation of Taipei (TPE) to "Taipei (TPE), China" on its online booking system.
21.	May 1	Owing to China's offer of large financial incentives, the Dominican Republic unilaterally terminated 77 years of diplomatic relations with Taiwan. The ROC government expressed regret at their decision to establish formal ties on May 1 and announced that it would terminate relations with the Dominican Republic on the same day, end all bilateral cooperation and assistance programs, and recall embassy officials and staff at the technical missions.
22.	May 8	In its latest issue of the <i>Gold Demand Trends</i> report, the World Gold Council changed its designation for Taiwan to include the "People's Republic of China" in brackets.

23.	May 9	An ROC national flag painted by Taiwanese schoolchildren on a bull statue for the Australia Beef expo held by the city of Rockhampton in Queensland and Meat & Livestock Australia was painted over by the organizers under pressure from the Chinese Consulate-General in Brisbane.
24.	May 14	Between January and April this year, China’s Civil Aviation Administration sent letters to 44 foreign airlines, including Air Canada, demanding that they add “China” to all references to Taiwan on their websites, rather than listing Taiwan as a country. Those airlines failing to comply with China’s domestic laws would be subject to punitive administrative measures. As a result, Air Canada downgraded Taiwan’s status by listing it as “Taipei, CN.”
25.	May 14	Under pressure from China, Malaysia Airlines labeled Taiwan as “Taipei, Taiwan-China.”
26.	May 15	Bowling to pressure from China, US clothing retailer Gap apologized for selling T-shirts bearing a map of China that did not include Taiwan. The items were pulled off the shelves and destroyed. Gap promised to carry out “rigorous reviews” in the future and stated that it “respected China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity” and that it would adhere to the country’s laws and rules.
27.	May 15-26	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Due to interference by the Chinese government, Taiwan did not receive an invitation to participate in the 71st World Health Assembly as an Observer, while Taiwanese journalists were denied press passes. <li>2. During a debate at the WHA, China’s delegate inappropriately cited UN General Assembly

		Resolution 2758, WHA Resolution 25.1, and the “one China principle” in his rebuttal, and made false claims that Taiwan has full access to information on disease prevention and is represented at virtually every WHO technical meeting. The government of Taiwan protested and condemned these outright lies.
28.	May 17	The FIFA World Cup website for handling fan ID applications has Taiwan listed as part of China in the nationality field and does not have a Taiwan option in the address field.
29.	May 18, 2018	Under pressure from China, the website of Philippine Airlines listed Taiwan as “Taipei” under the field for China.
30.	May 21, 2018	Before German Chancellor Angela Merkel traveled to Beijing, her office released a video online that displayed in the background a map of China that omitted Taiwan. The omission caused the Chinese Embassy in Germany to submit a protest with Germany’s Federal Foreign Office.
31.	May 23, 2018	Pressured by China, Thai Airways changed “Taipei-Taiwan” to “Taiwan-China” on the language selection field, removed Taiwan’s national flag, and used “Taipei-Taiwan-China” on the arrival/departure pages of its website.
32.	May 24, 2018	China’s Civil Aviation Administration sent a letter to Air France demanding that Taiwan’s designation on its official website and app be changed within 30 days, so that Taiwan is not listed as a country with China and that the term “Taiwan, China” be used for Taiwan. After issuing an explanation to Taiwan’s Civil Aeronautics Administration, Air France changed Taiwan’s

		designation to “Taiwan (Chine).” It expressed regret for having to do so.
33.	May 26	The government of Burkina Faso was induced by China’s dollar diplomacy to turn its back on Taiwan’s immense contributions to its national security, social stability, economic development, and people’s wellbeing over the past 24 years. It signed a joint communique on the resumption of diplomatic relations with China in Beijing on May 26. The government of the ROC expressed disappointment, regret, and outrage at its decision.
34.	June 2018	Bowing to pressure from China, Indonesia’s Lion Air listed Taiwan under the field for China on its official website.
35.	June 4, 2018	In letters dated April 25 sent to 44 international airlines, the Chinese government demanded that these airlines change their websites’ designation of Taiwan before a given deadline. Bowing to such pressure and considering its own commercial interests, Australia’s Qantas Airways announced that it would follow China’s demands at the International Air Transport Association’s annual meeting and subsequently changed the original designation of Taiwan to “Taipei, Taiwan, China” on its website on July 11.
36.	June 11, 2018	Under pressure from China, Singapore Airlines and its subsidiary Scoot changed their designation for Taiwan on their websites to “Taiwan, China.”

37.	June 27, 2018	After <i>Sankei Shimbun</i> published reports of its interviews with ROC Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu, China's Ambassador to Japan Cheng Yonghua strongly protested, claiming that the article advocated Taiwan's independence and violated the spirit of the One China principle.
38.	June 27, 2018	Yielding to pressure from China, Air India changed the original designation for Taiwan to "Taipei, Taoyuan International Airport, TPE, Chinese Taipei" on its website's airport selection list, as well as the original designation for the nationality of Taiwan passport holders to "Chinese Taipei" on its website's nationality registration page.
39.	July 24, 2018	Using its political influence, China pressured the East Asian Olympic Committee (EAOC) to cancel the 2019 East Asian Youth Games hosted by Taichung City.
40.	July 25, 2018	The Taiwanese team attending the 2018 Paris Gay Games was first forced to change its name to "Chinese Taipei" and then "Taipei" as a result of political pressure from China.
41.	July 25, 2018	Under pressure from China, Cathay Pacific Airways and Hong Kong Airlines changed on their websites the original designation for Taiwan to "Taiwan, China" on the fields for language selection, as well as for arrival and departure cities.

42.	July 25, 2018	American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and United Airlines removed the word “Taiwan” from their webpages carrying departure and arrival airport information as a result of China’s July 25 deadline.
43.	July 26, 2018	In a press release, China’s Civil Aviation Administration stated that 44 international airlines have changed their information on Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan, but four from the US have failed to completely comply, adding that it would conduct a civil aviation administrative procedure if necessary. China is continuing to exert pressure on international airlines to further downgrade Taiwan’s designation.
44.	July 29, 2018	The Chinese Taipei Rugby Union told the press that China’s authorities, during the Asian Rugby Football Union meeting in Kazakhstan, sought to have Taiwan’s right to hold the 2018 U-19 Asia Rugby Championship at the end of the year cancelled, but its request was denied.
45.	August 15, 2018	After President Tsai Ing-wen visited an 85°C store briefly to purchase a cup of coffee during a transit stop in Los Angeles on August 14, China started pressuring the chain. The next day the chain was forced to publicly voice support for the “1992 consensus” and the idea “the two sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to one family.”
46.	August 21, 2018	The Cerén administration of El Salvador was enticed by the financial incentives offered by the Chinese authorities to sign an agreement to establish diplomatic relations with China, thereby ending 85 years of diplomatic relations between El Salvador and Taiwan. On August 21, Taiwan

		announced that it was severing diplomatic ties with El Salvador, ending all bilateral cooperation projects, and closing the R.O.C. (Taiwan) Embassy and Technical Mission there.
47.	September 2, 2018	In order to keep overseas Taiwanese from traveling to Taiwan for the National Day celebrations, Chinese embassy officials met with travel agencies in Southeast Asian countries to have them pass on a warning to overseas Taiwanese that, should they return to Taiwan for National Day celebrations, their visa applications to enter China could be affected. Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council criticized China, stating that such inappropriate visa denials to overseas Taiwanese would only increase the abhorrence of the people of Taiwan and overseas Taiwanese toward China.
48.	September 4, 2018	A staff member of Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau submitted a picture he took of a cloud formation over the islet of Pengjia to the 2019 calendar contest of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). When the picture was shortlisted in the second phase of the contest, "Taiwan," the original location listed for the picture, was changed by the WMO to "Taiwan, Province of China." As the WMO denied the photographer's repeated requests for the location to be rectified, the photographer withdrew from the contest. The WMO Facebook page did not provide any explanation and simply stated that the picture was withdrawn at the request of the photographer. The WMO also deleted the picture and all the positive comments on it from the Facebook page. The Taiwan government has already issued a letter of complaint regarding the matter to the WMO Secretariat.

49.	September 10, 2018	When talking about Washington’s recall of US Ambassadors stationed in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador, as well as the Chargé d’Affairs in Panama, for consultations on the recent decisions of those countries to sever ties with Taiwan, Spokesman for China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs Geng Shuang implied that the United States has already acknowledged the “one China principle,” and therefore the US should adopt a more accurate position on China’s establishment of diplomatic relations with other countries and should be more prudent when dealing with issues related to Taiwan.
50.	August 23, 2018	Under pressure from China, the US-based Educational Testing Service (ETS), which administers the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), changed the nationality designation for Taiwan in its online test registration system to “Taiwan, China.” Taiwan has lodged a strong protest and demanded that this be rectified.
51.	September 3, 2018	When the Chairperson of the National Communications Commission (NCC) led a delegation to Papua New Guinea to attend a ministerial-level meeting of the APEC Women and the Economy Forum, China lodged a protest, claiming that the word “national” in the NCC’s name violated the “one China principle.” Following intensive efforts by Taiwan, the organizers rejected China’s unreasonable demand and allowed the Taiwan delegation to attend the event.
52.	October 10, 2018	Citing the “one China principle,” China pressured foreign Consulates in Hong Kong to refrain from attending R.O.C. National Day celebrations held by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office there. The Mainland Affairs Council criticized the Beijing authorities for disrespecting the Taiwanese people and undermining cross-strait relations.

53.	October 19, 2018	Commissioner of the Criminal Investigation Bureau Tsai Tsan-Po sent a letter in September to INTERPOL Secretary-General Jürgen Stock, requesting to attend in the capacity of Observer the 87th INTERPOL General Assembly, which was to be held in November, and participate meaningfully in the organization’s activities and mechanisms. However, in a reply sent by the Secretary-General’s office, the request was rejected, with reference to the 1984 decision made by the INTERPOL General Assembly when China gained membership. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed profound regret and displeasure at this reply.
54.	October 25, 2018	Former Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop told the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> that China had made it clear that “circumstances had changed between Taiwan and Mainland China and that China would not look favorably on Australia seeking to pursue a free trade agreement with Taiwan.”