Support Taiwan's inclusion in the post-COVID-19 global public health network



Dr. Chen Shih-chung

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Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, there have more than 40 million cases and more than one million deaths around the world. The virus has had an enormous impact on global politics, employment, economics, trade and financial systems, and significantly impacted the global efforts to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs).

Thanks to the united efforts of its entire people, Taiwan has responded to the threats posed by this pandemic through four principles: prudent action,

rapid response, advance deployment, and openness and transparency. Adopting such strategies as the operation of specialized command systems, the implementation of meticulous border control measures, the production and distribution of adequate supplies of medical resources, the employment of home quarantine and isolation measures and related care services, the application of IT systems, the publishing of transparent and open information, and the execution of precise screening and testing, we have been fortunate enough to contain the virus. As of October 7, Taiwan had had just 523 confirmed cases and seven deaths; meanwhile, life and work have continued much as normal for the majority of people.

The global outbreak of COVID-19 has reminded the world that infectious diseases know no borders and do not discriminate along political, ethnic, religious, or cultural lines. Nations should work together to address the threat of emerging diseases. For this reason, once Taiwan had stabilized its containment of the virus and ensured that people had sufficient access to medical resources, we began to share our experience and exchange information on containing COVID-19 with global public health professionals and scholars through COVID-19-related forums, APEC's High-Level Meeting on Health and the Economy, the Global Cooperation Training Framework, and other virtual bilateral meetings. As of June 2020, Taiwan had held nearly 80 online conferences, sharing the Taiwan Model with experts from governments, hospitals, universities, and think tanks in 32 countries.

Taiwan's donations of medical equipment and antipandemic supplies to countries in need also

continue. By June, we had donated 51 million surgical masks, 1.16 million N95 masks, 600,000 isolation gowns, and 35,000 forehead thermometers to more than 80 countries.

To ensure access to vaccines, Taiwan has joined the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility (COVAX) co-led by GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance; the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations; and the World Health Organization. And our government is actively assisting domestic manufacturers in hopes of accelerating the development and production of successful vaccines, bringing them to market as quickly as possible and putting an end to this pandemic.

To prepare for a possible next wave of the pandemic as well as the approaching flu season, Taiwan is maintaining its strategies of encouraging citizens to wear face masks and maintain social distancing, and strengthening border quarantine measures, community-based prevention, and medical preparedness. Furthermore, we are actively collaborating with domestic and international partners to obtain vaccines and develop optimal treatments and accurate diagnostic tools, jointly safeguarding global public health security.

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven that Taiwan is an integral part of the global public health network and that Taiwan Model can help other countries combat the pandemic. To recover better, WHO needs Taiwan. We urge WHO and related parties to acknowledge Taiwan’s longstanding contributions to global public health, disease prevention, and the human right to health, and to firmly support Taiwan’s inclusion in WHO. Taiwan’s comprehensive participation in WHO meetings, mechanisms, and

activities would allow us to work with the rest of the world in realizing the fundamental human right to health as stipulated in the WHO Constitution and the vision of leaving no one behind enshrined in the UN SDGs.

Recover Better Together – Taiwan can help



Jaushieh Joseph Wu Minister of Foreign Affairs Republic of China (Taiwan)

In 2020, the world has been hit by an unprecedented public health crisis, with the effects of COVID-19 being felt across every aspect of people's lives. This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Charter of the United Nations—the mission statement that stands at the very heart of the inclusive multilateralism the world needs so much at the present moment. Now more than ever, the global community must make a concerted effort to forge the better and more sustainable future called for by the UN and its Member States. Taiwan is ready, willing and able to be a part of these efforts.

With less than 500 confirmed cases and seven deaths, Taiwan has defied predictions and successfully contained COVID-19. We managed this without lockdowns; schools were only closed for

two weeks in February. Baseball games also restarted in April. Initially, cardboard cutouts stood in for the crowds, but by mid-July games were back in full swing, attended by as many as 10,000 spectators.

This has all come in no small part due to Taiwan's quick response measures, including the establishment of a Central Epidemic Command Center, the implementation of stringent border controls and quarantine procedures, and transparent information-sharing. We also took swift action to ensure an adequate stock of medical supplies for our world-class health care system.

And after making sure we had enough supplies to look after our own people, we started providing medical equipment and supplies to other countries in serious need. By the end of June, Taiwan had donated 51 million surgical masks, 1.16 million N95 masks, 600,000 isolation gowns, 35,000 forehead thermometers, and other medical materials to more than 80 countries, including the United States, Taiwan's diplomatic allies, and European nations. We have also joined forces with like-minded democracies to explore the development of rapid test kits, medicines, and vaccines. Working together for the greater good is how the world will defeat COVID-19.

In the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, governments and heads of state acknowledge that only by working together in solidarity can we end the pandemic and effectively tackle its consequences. They thus pledge to make the UN more inclusive and to leave no one behind as the world looks to recover from the pandemic. Similarly, in remarks at the High-level Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council on "Multilateralism after COVID-19: what kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?" in July, UN Secretary-GeneralAntónio Guterres said that networked, inclusive, and effective multilateralism would aid global efforts to promote recovery and the continued implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We

cannot agree more. However, this vision seems lacking when Taiwan—one of the world's model democracies and a success story in containing the current pandemic—continues to be barred from taking part in and exchanging experiences and information with the UN system.

Even as the pandemic has made the international community acutely aware of Taiwan's unjust and discriminatory exclusion from the World Health Organization and the UN system, the People's Republic of China (PRC) continues to press the UN to use an erroneous interpretation of the 1971 UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) as the legal basis for blocking Taiwan. The fact is that this resolution does not address the issue of Taiwan'srepresentation in the UN, nor does it state that Taiwan is part of the PRC. In fact, Taiwan is not, nor has it ever been, a part of the PRC. Our President and legislature are directly elected by the people of Taiwan. Moreover, border controls instituted during the pandemic offer further evidence to counter the PRC's false claims. The UN must recognize that only Taiwan's democratically elected government can represent its 23.5 million people; the PRC has no right to speak on Taiwan's behalf.

Not having Taiwan's input in the UN is a loss to the global community, and will hamper Member States' efforts to regain normalcy and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in full and on time. By drawing on its outstanding work on the SDGs, Taiwan can help countries better recover from the disruption caused by the pandemic. Our economy has proven resilient: the Asian Development Bank forecast that Taiwan's economic performance in 2020 would be the best among the Four Asian Tigers—the only one to show positive growth. Moreover, many of our SDG indicators—including gender equality, economic growth, clean water and sanitation, reduced inequality, and good health and wellbeing—have reached levels comparable to OECD countries. Our ongoing efforts to implement the SDGs coupled with our proven pandemic response put Taiwan

in a much better position than most to help the global community in tackling the ongoing challenges facing humanity.

In fact, Taiwan has long been assisting its partner countries in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Pacific with their development goals in such areas as clean energy, waste management, and disaster prevention. So we are already able to help—yet we could do that much more if given the chance to participate in UN activities, meetings, and mechanisms.

Unfortunately, the 23.5 million people of Taiwan are denied any access to UN premises. Taiwanese journalists and media outlets are also denied accreditation to cover UN meetings. This discriminatory policy stems from the wrongful claims of and pressure from an authoritarian state, and contravenes the principle of universality and equality upon which the UN was founded.

“We the peoples of the United Nations determined . . . to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights . . . [and] the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small”—thus begins the UN Charter. The ideal of upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms for all laid out in this text must not remain empty words. As it looks ahead to the next 75 years, it is never too late for the UN to welcome Taiwan’s participation.

Belgian parliament passes

resolution backing Taiwan



The Belgian Chamber of Representatives passed a resolution, July 16, calling on the Federal Government and the EU to support Taiwan’s democracy, strengthen bilateral relations, and encourage the country’s meaningful participation in international organisations.

The resolution passed in a overwhelming fashion, by 130 votes to 0, with 13 abstentions. Introduced by members Georges Dallemagne and Els Van Hoof, co-Presidents of the Belgium-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group, the resolution is the first of its kind since 2015.

The resolution acknowledges Taiwan’s freedoms; system of government; and current contributions to addressing global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Similarly, it recognises the ever-closer ties between Taiwan and Belgium.

In turn, the resolution implores the Belgian government to act on a number of issues related to strengthening the Belgium-Taiwan relationship, including supporting Taiwan’s meaningful participation in international organisations such as the World Health Organisation. The resolution also requires the Belgian government to urge the European Commission to move forward on strengthening relations between the EU and Taiwan.

Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs greeted the resolution warmly, thanking the Belgian Parliament for its passage. The

ministry added that Taiwan will continue to deepen and broaden bilateral relations with Belgium on the basis of the existing good foundation of ties between the two nations.



Taiwan’s stance on China’s imposition of the Hong Kong national security law



Below the response of the government of Taiwan to China’s imposition of the Hong Kong National Security law on June 30, 2020.

Taiwan urges the international community to strongly condemn and jointly oppose China’s hegemonic expansion in order to safeguard freedom and democracy.

Below the key points of Taiwan's stance on this issue.

The offenses targeted in the new law spell an end to the Occupy Central and anti-extradition bill movements in Hong Kong, as well as any similar protests in the future, and are designed to suppress democratic forces in Hong Kong through shock and awe. The Chinese Communist Party(CCP) is seeking to legitimize its intervention in Hong Kong's autonomy and control of related personnel affairs, as well as establish a legal basis for the entry of armed police into the territory.

The law applies to the entire world, severing Hong Kong's links with the international community and strengthening the CCP's authoritarian rule. Article 38 of the law stipulates that "this law shall apply to offenses under this Law committed against the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region from outside the region by a person who is not a permanent resident of the Region." This is equivalent to asserting extraterritorial jurisdiction in every corner of the world.

The CCP national security authorities are now the puppet masters over the Hong Kong government, and Taiwan may be China's next target. The law defines the offense of secession as separating Hong Kong or "any other part" of the PRC from the PRC. This demonstrates its intention to deliberately suppress collaboration between what the CCP commonly refer to as the Hong Kong and Taiwan independence movements, and to use this national security law to impose restrictions on cross-strait relations.

Totalitarian China's renunciation of its international commitments exposes its ambition to impose its will and reshape the international order. By imposing this national security law on Hong Kong, the CCP has seriously violated the Sino-British Joint Declaration, shattered Hong's "one country, two systems" framework and high degree of autonomy, renounced its commitment to Hong Kong and the global community. It also exposes the CCP's intention to disrupt the rule-based

international order.

China’s use of authoritarian rule to trample on democracy and human rights proves that autocracy and democracy are incompatible. Taiwan urges the international community to recognize the true nature of the CCP’s autocratic regime, and calls on like-minded countries to engage in concerted opposition.

If the international community fails to take any countermeasures, the CCP will spread its autocratic system even farther, and take a leading role in shaping the international political and economic order.

Taiwan occupies a key position in safeguarding democracy in Asia, and hopes the international community will jointly support the people of Hong Kong and protect Taiwan. The global community must take seriously the expansion of the CCP’s authoritarian system and ideology throughout the international arena. Taiwan stands on the global democratic community’s first line of defense, and the survival and development of democratic Taiwan are key to regional peace and stability. We urge the international community to come together to counter China’s hegemonic expansion and work collectively to safeguard Taiwan’s democratic system and protect it from destruction at the hands of totalitarian China.



Les jeunes et l’emploi dans le tourisme: Marc Dans au Skål

C’est le directeur de PagTour, Marc Dans, qui sera le prochain orateur du Skål Club de Bruxelles International, sur le thème des jeunes face à l’emploi dans le tourisme.

Les *millenials* boudent-ils les emplois en tourisme ? les jeunes sont-ils sous-informés sur les possibilités qu’offrent les métiers du tourisme ? comment positionner le tourisme comme secteur d’emploi de choix ? Telles sont quelques-unes des questions auxquelles Marc Dans tentera d’apporter une réponse lors de la prochaine conférence-débat qu’organise le Think Tank du Skål bruxellois.

L’orateur est particulièrement qualifié pour aborder le sujet puisque, riche d’une longue expérience professionnelle – il a notamment dirigé sa propre agence spécialisée dédiée au tourisme réceptif et au MICE pendant 25 ans –, il partage aujourd’hui son savoir avec les étudiants en tourisme de l’Institut Charles Péguy avec ses cours de Travel & Tourism Management, Culture Générale et géographique de la Belgique, Destination Management, Parcours-découverte de l’Europe, Les chemins de fer, Géographie des Saveurs, Géographie touristique de la France. Et, pour qui l’ignorerait encore, Marc est, parallèlement, copropriétaire et éditeur du quotidien du

tourisme en ligne PagTour.

L'événement aura lieu le **mercredi 12 février** 2020 à **l'hôtel Ramada Woluwe**

parking gratuit souterrain et en surface. Accueil à 18:30 h, conférence à 19:00 h précises, suivie d'un dîner-débat. Infos : skalbru@skynet.be

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7 raisons d'aller en Slovénie, cet hiver



Ce petit pays surprend par ses stations de ski modernes, ses merveilles naturelles, ses luxueux centres de bien-être et ses villes romantiques. Il est grand temps d'y passer vos vacances d'hiver, que vous skiiez ou non. Voici 7 raisons de choisir cette magnifique destination en hiver.

1. D'une station de ski à l'autre, en moins d'une heure

Lorsque vous skiez en Slovénie, vous pouvez découvrir **différents domaines en une journée**, grâce aux courtes distances qui les séparent.

Il est possible de passer d'une piste à l'autre, avec un forfait – valable pour les principales pistes slovènes. L'ensemble de ces dernières sont bien entretenues et conviennent à tous les skieurs, débutants ou chevronnés. Des forfaits individuels et familiaux sont disponibles pour un jour ou plusieurs, voire pour toute la saison. Les enfants

sont très bien accueillis partou

2. Assister à des compétitions de niveau international
Si vous avez toujours voulu assister à une compétition de niveau international dans la neige, une des manches de la **coupe du monde de biathlon 2020 BMW de l'UIB** se déroulera en Slovénie, du **22 au 26 janvier**. Pokljuka est un grand plateau, qui s'est fait connaître dans le monde entier, grâce aux compétitions de biathlon. Un autre événement sportif marquant sera la **56e édition de la coupe du monde de ski Golden Fox Audi de la FIS**, qui se tiendra du **15 au 16 février**, sur les flancs des collines de Pohorje. Chaque année, les épreuves sont organisées à la perfection et dans une atmosphère enthousiaste. Quant à la **coupe du monde de saut à ski féminin de la FIS**, elle aura lieu **du 22 au 23 février**. La compétition à Ljubno ob Savinji est l'une des plus spectaculaires de la coupe du monde de saut à ski féminin de la FIS.



3. S'amuser dans la neige, même sans skis
Même si vous ne skiez pas, la Slovénie est une destination magnifique en hiver. Elle offre une multitude de possibilités, allant **de la tranquillité à la stimulation extrême**. Vous explorez le paysage enneigé, avec des chaussures de marche ou des raquettes. Vous pouvez faire de la luge en journée, mais aussi la nuit. Avez-vous déjà entendu parler du rafting sur neige, du vélo sur neige ou du ski attelé? Ou d'activités encore plus extrêmes, telles que le parapente en hiver ou l'escalade sur glace?

4. Le manque d’expérience n’est pas une excuse
Il existe des écoles de ski dans presque toutes les stations slovènes. Des moniteurs chevronnés sont heureux de vous aider, lors de cours individuels ou collectifs. La plupart des stations disposent également de **centres de location,** pour les skis et d’autres équipements destinés aux sports d’hiver, de sorte que vous ne devez pas tout prendre avec vous. Les pistes d’entraînement pour apprendre à skier sont bien larges et adaptées aux débutants.

5. Après l’effort, le réconfort



Après une journée intense dans ce paradis hivernal, une séance de sauna peut vous être bénéfique. Les **spas et les centres de bien-être** se situent généralement à proximité des pistes. Du reste, la Slovénie est réputée pour ses sources et ses stations thermales, ses installations de bien-être médical et ses parcs aquatiques… souvent à un prix intéressant.

6. Reprendre des forces, en dégustant les mets les plus exquis
Skier ouvre l’appétit. Citons quelques spécialités : dans les environs de Rogla, il faut absolument goûter les **produits traditionnels** de la marque «Okusi Rogle». Après avoir skié près de Vogel, dégustez des **mets exquis**, portant le label «Bohinjsko / From Bohinj». Les 27 et 28 janvier, la coupe Gourmet, avec ses prouesses gastronomiques, sera organisée sur les collines blanches de la station de ski très appréciée de Krvavec.

7. Visiter des villes
La visite d’une ville historique constitue certainement la touche finale de vos vacances d’hiver inoubliables, en Slovénie. Mais pourquoi n’en visiteriez-vous qu’une? Tout comme les pistes, les jolies villes ne sont pas très éloignées les unes des autres. Ljubljana, Novo Mesto, Piran, Maribor,

Koper, Bled, Celje… laquelle sera votre préférée?

Pour plus d'informations sur la Slovénie : www.slovenia.info

Austrian among the Top 10 most punctual Airlines in Europe again



- *Study: 79 percent of all arrivals in 2019 were on time*
- *10th place among the most punctual airlines in Europe*
- *Measures taken to improve punctuality are effective*

In 2019, Austrian Airlines was once again among the most punctual airlines in Europe. This is confirmed by a recently published study by the travel data and analytics expert Cirium. 79 percent of all arrivals were on time. That means 10th place in the ranking (see table). "I am pleased, that we

are among the most punctual airlines in Europe again. However, there is still room for improvement", says Austrian Airlines CEO Alexis von Hoensbroech. "Punctuality is as important to us as the red-white-red on our planes."

The most punctual airlines in Europe in 2019

Airline	Punctuality
1 Aeroflot	86.82%
2 Iberia	84.24%
3 S7 Airlines	84.11%
4 Alitalia	82.19%
5 Eurowings	81.23%
6 Air France	81.19%
7 Air Europa	81.17%
8 SAS	79.34%
9 KLM	79.25%
10 Austrian	79.02%

Source: Cirium On-Time Performance Review 2019 // Graphic: Austrian Airlines

In 2018, punctuality was still down on the previous year. The deterioration was mainly due to known problems in European aviation: Congested airports and air traffic controls, increased weather caprices and the resulting rotational delays – in other words, when an aircraft is not available in time for the next flight due to a prior delay. Bottlenecks at some European air traffic controls in particular prevented higher punctuality in 2019 as well.

To increase punctuality, various measures were taken already. Two reserve aircraft were available in the summer of 2019. In addition, Austrian Airlines and Vienna Airport developed

various improvements for more punctuality in the “ChronOS@VIE” project. These include automated bus boarding, which enables passengers to get from gate to aircraft more quickly. For certain arriving flights from the Schengen area, there has been a further exit option for passengers via an additional staircase at the rear door of the aircraft since July. In this way, an aircraft can be made operational again more quickly – which also resulted in noticeable improvements.

Love is in the air… Fêtez la Saint-Valentin à Malte

Malte est l’île des amoureux, et le décor parfait pour de merveilleux moments romantiques. À l’occasion de la Saint-Valentin, Malte sera une destination incontournable pour tous les couples d’amoureux. Voici quelques idées inspirantes à forte dose d’amour…



Citadelle de Gozo
Pour profiter du calme et de la sérénité, les couples embarqueront à bord du ferry pour l’île tranquille de Gozo. Ils pourront s’y promener et profiter des paysages et des charmants petits villages. La seule grande ville de l’île est sa capitale, Victoria. Après la fermeture du musée, vous pourrez vous rendre à la Citadelle et surprendre votre partenaire avec un moment féérique à la lumière du soir. Le

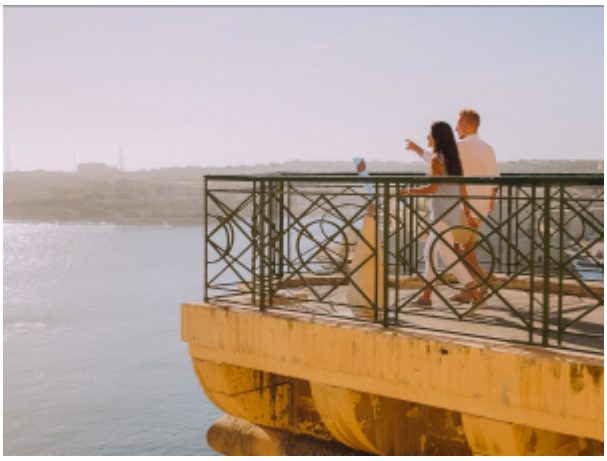
décor parfait pour s’embrasser !

Jardin botanique San Anton, Attard



Le palais San Anton est la résidence officielle du président maltais. Les jardins qui entourent le palais sont partiellement ouverts au public. Parfaitement entretenus, ils regorgent de jolies fontaines et de charmants coins secrets. Vous y observerez également des cygnes et des paons. De nombreux couples choisissent ce lieu pour leurs photos de mariage, qui a aussi souvent servi de décor pour des films et des séries, comme Game of Thrones.

Jardins d’Upper Barrakka, La Valette



Lors de votre visite de la capitale, ne manquez surtout pas une balade dans les Jardins d’Upper Barrakka. La vue sur les Trois Cités et le Grand Port y est imprenable. Mais elle est encore plus impressionnante au coucher du soleil. Attendez que la baie soit illuminée par les lumières du soir avant de quitter ce lieu magique.

Mdina

Quoi de plus romantique qu’une balade dans la cité silencieuse de Mdina ? C’est l’une des plus belles villes fortifiées

d’Europe, pour voyager dans l’histoire. Les ruelles aux couleurs ocres sont magnifiques et réservent des surprises à chaque virage ou coin de rue. Les couples dégusteront une tarte au chocolat aux Fontanella Gardens, tout en profitant de la vue splendide. Mdina est également un endroit fascinant pour se balader le soir, lorsque la ville prend des allures de contes de fées sous les éclairages tamisés.

Les ruelles de Birgu

Birgu constitue, avec Cospicua et Senglea, ce que l’on nomme les Trois Cités. Cette ville fortifiée séduit par son ambiance charmante et ses richesses historiques. Après la visite, une balade en gondole s’impose, depuis le front de mer de Birgu, pour fêter comme il se doit la Saint-Valentin. Vous pourrez terminer votre journée en beauté par un dîner romantique en plein air sur le port ou sous les lumières tamisées d’une ruelle de Birgu.

Falaises de Dingli



La côte ouest de Malte est bien différente de la côte est. Un paysage légèrement vallonné, avec ça et là des falaises abruptes. Cette partie de l’île est moins touristique et donc plus calme. L’endroit parfait pour admirer le coucher du soleil. Devant la chapelle Sainte Marie-Madeleine, quelques bancs isolés accueillent les âmes romantiques, qui profiteront de toute cette splendeur avec vue sur l’Afrique.

Jardins Hastings, La Valette

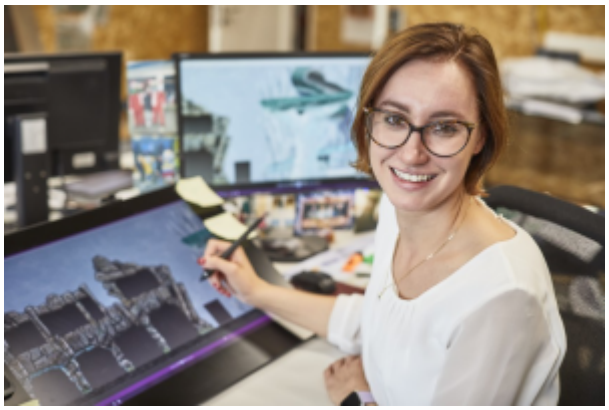
À La Valette, la plupart des points de vue donnent sur le Grand Port. Vous aurez cependant un autre panorama depuis les Jardins Hastings. Il vous faudra grimper un peu, mais la vue sur le port de plaisance, Sliema et l’île Manoel vaut certainement le détour. Et le bisou d’amoureux y aura une

autre saveur !

Grotte bleue
Pour profiter du romantisme en pleine nature, il vous faudra voyager jusque dans le sud de l'île de Malte. La Grotte bleue est une formation rocheuse naturelle. Grâce à sa situation, et sous l'action de la lumière du soleil, l'eau y prend de magnifiques nuances de bleu. Magique et romantique ! Le phénomène s'observe chaque jour entre 9 heures et 13 heures D'anciens petits bateaux de pêcheurs vous emmèneront du port jusqu'à la grotte.

Pour plus d'informations sur Malte, visitez les sites visitmalta.com et malta.be.

Vlaamse ontwerpster realiseert droom bij Europa-Park



Ontwerpster Michelle Homburg (25) uit Antwerpen werkt sinds een tijdje bij Europa-Park, het grootste attractiepark van Duitsland. Daar maakt ze ontwerpen voor het nieuwe indoor waterpark, Rulantica. "Mijn droom is uitgekomen."

Al tijdens haar studie Interieurarchitectuur raakte Homburg geïnteresseerd in de wereld van attractieparken. Om er meer over te weten te komen, besloot ze om stage te lopen bij Plopsaland De Panne. "Toen wist ik het meteen: in deze wereld

wil ik werken.”

Netwerken
Na haar afstuderen in 2019 besloot Homburg om te proberen haar droom te realiseren. “Je hebt niet alles in de hand, maar je kunt zelf wel veel beïnvloeden.” Ze startte met het vergroten van haar netwerk door zich als vrijwilliger op te geven voor de jaarlijkse attractieparkenbeurs van de International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA). Daar kwam ze in contact met een werknemer van Europa-Park die haar voorstelde aan de creatief directeur. “Na dat gesprek bood hij mij vrijwel meteen een stageplaats aan. Ik mocht zes maanden gaan helpen bij Rulantica, het nieuwe indoor waterpark van Europa-Park dat op 28 november 2019 is geopend.”

Ruwbouwfase
Homburg kwam binnen in januari 2019 in de ruwbouwfase. De ontwerpen waren klaar, maar de art director kon haar hulp goed gebruiken bij het ontwerpen van details en het doorvoeren van aanpassingen. “In sneltreinvaart heb ik me de belevingswereld van Rulantica eigen gemaakt. Door veel te kijken, met veel mensen te praten en er gewoon keihard voor te gaan. Ik startte met allerlei kleine ontwerpklussen en stapsgewijs werd mijn rol steeds groter.” Homburg ontwikkelde zich snel. “Ik leerde vooral hoe je in contact komt met mensen, hoe je gesprekken voert en hoe je je doel bereikt. Dat zijn belangrijke vaardigheden, want als ontwerper voer je de hele dag gesprekken. Bijvoorbeeld over hoe een steen er precies uit moet zien en wat er bijvoorbeeld nog mist in een ontwerp.”

Passie
Homburg voelt zich gewaardeerd. “Namens het bouwteam mocht ik

bij de opening de ‘sleutel’ van Rulantica aan de familie Mack, eigenaar van Europa-Park, overhandigen. Dat was een bijzonder moment.” Homburg kan haar passie kwijt in haar nieuwe job. “Rulantica biedt gasten een heel andere beleving dan andere waterparken. Waar zij kiezen voor subtropische sferen met palmbomen, is in Rulantica een Scandinavische belevingswereld gecreëerd met een ongekende liefde voor detail. Ik krijg hier volop de ruimte om fantasierijke ontwerpen te maken. En die bevallen Europa-Park blijkbaar ook goed, want in juli 2019 kreeg ik een vast dienstverband.”

Verhuizing

Inmiddels is Homburg verhuisd naar het Duitse dorp Rust, waar Europa-Park is gevestigd. Daar woont ze op loopafstand van het park, in een woning van Europa-Park. Haar nieuwe thuis bevalt haar inmiddels uitstekend. Homburg: “In het begin moest ik wel even wennen aan het wonen in een ander land. Maar het voelde al snel goed. In het internationale ontwerpteam waarin ik werk, werd ik direct opgenomen. Wat ook prettig is: ik kan te voet naar mijn werk. Het attractiepark zie ik als mijn ‘tuin’. Ik voel me nooit alleen, er zijn altijd geluiden om mij heen, bijvoorbeeld het vrolijke geroezemoes van gasten.”

Trots

Homburg is trots op het resultaat van haar inspanningen. “Rulantica is prachtig geworden. Ik blijf als ontwerper verbonden aan het waterpark. Ook al is de opening achter de rug, er blijven altijd klussen komen, want Rulantica blijft in ontwikkeling. Ik denk dat Rulantica ook veel Belgen zal aanspreken. Europa-Park was voor hen al een bestemming voor een meerdaags verblijf, maar met de komst van Rulantica zijn de mogelijkheden om hier vakantie te vieren alleen nog maar groter geworden.” Homburg realiseert zich dat ze geluk heeft gehad, maar benadrukt dat je zelf veel kunt doen om je droom te realiseren. “Als je een droom hebt, pak ‘m dan vast en laat niet meer los. Duik gewoon in het avontuur, dat kan ik iedereen aanbevelen.”

Waterwereld Rulantica is het nieuwe indoor waterpark van Europa-Park. Het bestaat uit 9 avontuurlijke themazones, waarvan 8 binnen en 1 buiten. In totaal zijn er 25 waterattracties voor jong en oud, zoals Duitslands grootste golfslagbad, een wildwaterrivier, een ontspannende lazy river van 250 meter en 17 glijbanen, waaronder een aantal unieke voor Europa. Rulantica is het hele jaar open. Vanwege het begrensde aantal bezoekers hebben gasten een ticket op datum nodig. Deze zijn te bestellen op tickets.europapark.de. Kijk voor meer informatie en toegangsprijzen op rulantica.nl.

Ryanair’s Kharkiv kick-off at Budapest Airport



Photo caption: Budapest Airport’s Airline Development Manager, Máté Ritter kicks off the gateway’s route launches of 2020 by welcoming Ryanair’s twice-weekly service to Kharkiv last Friday.

Budapest Airport kicked-off its route launches of 2020, welcoming Ryanair’s 48th service from Budapest on 16 January. The new Kharkiv route will operate twice weekly on Thursdays and Sundays. With the LCC’s twice-weekly operation to Kharkiv, the Hungarian gateway now offers 26 weekly flights to Ukraine

throughout S20. Kharkiv joins Odesa and Lviv (starting in March) as Ryanair's served Ukrainian destinations from Budapest. Hungary's capital city airport recorded a 31% growth in Ukrainian visitors last year when compared with 2018.

Shama expands Bangkok presence with two additional locations in Phrom Phong and Yen Akat



The serviced apartments brand will be present in four prime Bangkok neighbourhoods by late 2020

Bangkok, 27 January 2020 – Already a fast expanding Asia-Pacific serviced apartments brand with two properties in two prime locations in Bangkok, Shama Serviced Apartments by ONYX Hospitality Group is doubling its neighbourhood presence in the Thai capital by adding Phrom Phong and Yen Akat to its portfolio in 2020.

The two new properties – Shama Sukhumvit 39 Bangkok and Shama

Yen Akat Bangkok – will complement the existing Shama Sukhumvit Bangkok in Ploenchit and Shama Lakeview Asoke Bangkok.

Douglas Martell, President & CEO, ONYX Hospitality Group, said: “We are excited to welcome the new decade with the expansion of Shama to four prime locations across the Thai capital – Ploenchit, Asoke, Phrom Phong and Yen Akat. This follows an exciting 2019 where we opened our second Shama property in Hangzhou, relaunched Shama Lakeview Asoke and Amari Pattaya following extensive refurbishments and signed our first hotel in Japan with Amari Niseko. As we enhance our presence across the Asia-Pacific region, we are equally committed to expanding our reach within Thailand where we are headquartered.”



Developed by Walton Asset Limited and managed by ONYX Hospitality Group, Shama Sukhumvit 39 Bangkok in Phrom Phong is scheduled to open in February 2020 as an extended stay residence with 52 apartments in five different one-bedroom and two-bedroom layouts. The property features a pool and terrace, gym and kid’s playroom.

Situated in the heart of what has affectionately been referred to as Bangkok’s largest Japanese neighbourhood, Shama Sukhumvit 39 Bangkok is a short stroll from the EM District comprising the Emporium and Emquartier shopping malls, Samitivej Hospital, numerous international schools and Soi Thonglor, best known for fine cuisine, buzzy bars and hip coffee shops.

Shama Yen Akat Bangkok, developed by SP Plus Property Company Ltd and managed by ONYX Hospitality Group, is scheduled to open in September 2020 with 136 units, welcoming both short stay as well as extended stay guests. The property will offer a restaurant, gym and a rooftop pool terrace with barbeque pit.

A prime residential enclave of lower Sathorn, Yen Akat has been widely referred to as one of the city's most liveable neighbourhoods with diverse eating options from street food and coffee bars to trendy cocktail lounges and award-winning restaurants. The property is located next to The Market Place Nanglinchee community mall and is a short stroll to the Central Rama 3 shopping complex.

Shama is a leading and award-winning provider of premium serviced apartments, with a portfolio of 11 properties in China, Hong Kong and Thailand. Upcoming Shama openings are anticipated in Johor, Malaysia and additional locations within mainland China.

Shama was named the "Best Serviced Apartment Operator of Asia" for the 7th time at the AHF Asia Hotel Awards 2019. It was also named the "Best Serviced Apartment Operator" at the Hong Kong Business High Flyers Awards 2018.

Based in Bangkok, ONYX Hospitality Group has a growing regional portfolio of 50 operating properties across three core brands in eight markets. The Group has a robust development pipeline of 25 new properties in markets such as China, Malaysia and Laos, and has set a target of having 99 hotels open by 2024 as part of its journey towards being the best medium-sized hospitality player in the region.