

FOR RELEASE AFTER JULY 12
TAC-WC Board

Taiwanese American West Coast Conference 2026

*Champions Democratic Resilience, Tech Leadership, and
Generational Unity in San Diego*

SAN DIEGO, CA — The Taiwanese American Conference - West Coast (TAC-WC) concluded its landmark 2026 gathering in San Diego, held from July 10th to 12th. Serving as a premier platform for Taiwanese Americans to review, recalibrate, and rejoice in their shared destiny, this year's conference highlighted the community's profound contributions to global innovation while confronting critical geopolitical and economic challenges.

Though the history of Taiwanese Americans in the United States is relatively brief, their global impact is undeniable. Today, visionaries like Jensen Huang and Lisa Su are actively leading the global AI revolution, while Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC) continues to fortify its manufacturing presence in the U.S. As relatively new immigrants, the Taiwanese American community embodies the hard work that builds nations. Recognizing this legacy, the conference honored the spirit of a "nation of immigrants"—a concept coined by JFK—and celebrated migrants as "messengers of hope," as described by Pope Leo, who deserve dignity within America's 250-year-old experimental democracy.

A Tale of Economic Miracles and Youth Challenges

Across the Pacific, Taiwan has achieved both political and economic miracles in a single generation, earning recognition as a beacon of democracy, the happiest country in Asia, and ranking #1 in healthcare quality and #5 in global stock market capitalization.

However, the declaration also shed light on pressing economic headwinds. Taiwan's youth unemployment rate has hovered around 11.4% in recent months. Many young people face severe economic strain driven by soaring housing costs, stagnant wages, and an emerging shortage of entry-level jobs displaced by artificial intelligence.

Emphasizing that a country has no future if there is no future for its youth, the TAC-WC declaration echoed the words of the 32nd U.S. President, Franklin D. Roosevelt:

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

Confronting Geopolitical Threats with "Intelligence Leading the Way"

The conference directly addressed the constant threat China poses to Taiwan's security and sovereignty. Highlighting the PRC's July 1st enactment of the *Law on Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress*—which attempts to hold individuals outside of China legally accountable for "inciting separatism"—the conference condemned the outdated doctrine of "ethnicity trumps democracy" as a direct danger to universal freedom. In response, the first major theme of the conference, **"Intelligence Leading the Way,"** underscored how innovation, strategic foresight, and societal resilience can steer Taiwan through complex global challenges.

Key pillars of this strategy include:

- **Defense & Cognitive Security:** Cultivating robust military relations between the United States and Taiwan to ensure a formidable physical deterrent, while fortifying civic defense mechanisms to counter sophisticated cognitive warfare and coordinated disinformation campaigns.
- **Economic & Strategic Resilience:** Navigating economic headwinds, such as United States tariffs, while pursuing Taiwan's space exploration dreams and examining the interplay between technology and geopolitics.
- **Community Preparedness:** Equipping local communities both in Taiwan and diaspora networks abroad with structured civic responses to disasters, guaranteeing operational continuity during natural or human-caused crises.

Ultimately, true intelligence means combining scientific excellence, strategic thinking, and societal resilience to build sustainable opportunities in an evolving international landscape.

Preserving Legacy Through "Innovation Connecting Generations"

The second core theme of TAC-WC 2026, "**Innovation Connecting Generations**," focused on how forward-thinking concepts can preserve cultural legacies and unite different eras through shared values and mutual understanding.

The conference highlighted vital initiatives to connect the diaspora's past with its future:

- **Cultural Continuity:** Revitalizing the mother tongue to bridge communication divides, ensuring younger generations inherit their ancestral identity.
- **Transitional Justice:** Educating younger generations about transitional justice to foster healing and build an equitable foundation for the future.
- **Amplifying Indigenous Voices:** Honoring traditional wisdom by creatively adapting indigenous perspectives to modern times.
- **Public Health:** Advancing public health and community care to directly enhance well-being across all age demographics.

Passing the Baton

Standing firm in the belief that "when the going gets tough, the tough gets going," TAC-WC reasserted that uniting democratic forces from every walk of life to secure peace in the Taiwan Strait and beyond is a moral, spiritual, and civic duty.

Looking forward, TAC-WC proudly passes the baton to future generations to continue a collective journey toward peace, prosperity, and progress in the years to come.