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May 24, 2016

The Honorable Nikki Haley  
Governor  
State of South Carolina  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley,

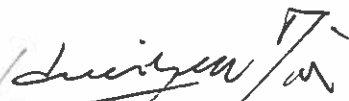
Please allow me to share some good news. On May 20, Taiwan's vibrant democracy celebrated the inauguration of the country's first female president, Tsai Ing-wen, of the Democratic Progressive Party. Dr. Tsai's victory signals that Taiwan's democracy continues to thrive after 20 years of direct presidential elections, and speaks well of Taiwan's commitment to gender equality.

In her inaugural address, President Tsai said she respected the "joint acknowledgments and understandings" reached between mainland China and Taiwan at a 1992 meeting. She said she wants all current contacts to continue and that she will work to maintain peace and stability. "The two governing parties across the strait must set aside the baggage of history, and engage in positive dialogue, for the benefit of the people on both sides," she said.

Although her focus is on solving domestic issues including a flagging economy and the need for educational reforms, President Tsai supports and honors Taiwan's longstanding commitment to democracy and human rights, and its contribution to peace and stability in the region. She proposed setting aside disputes in the East China Sea and the South China Sea to enable joint development. She stated her intention to proactively participate in international economic and trade cooperation such as the TPP and RCEP, and steadfastly defend the global economic order. Tsai noted that Taiwan will regularly review goals for cutting greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the agreement negotiated at the COP21 meeting in Paris. Under her leadership, Taiwan will continue its role as a responsible global citizen.

My colleagues and I are grateful for your continuing friendship and support for Taiwan. If our office can ever be of service to you, please don't hesitate to ask.

Warm regards,

  
Hsuei-Yuan (Steven) Tai  
Director General