

## Taiwan Ministry of Agriculture expands presence in Japan

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An agricultural section was inaugurated at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Japan April 28 in Tokyo, marking a new milestone in the already robust bilateral relationship.

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According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the new entity was jointly inaugurated by Deputy Minister Hu Jong-i and Lee I-yang, Taiwan's representative to Japan. It is the third of its kind, with one at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States and the other at the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium.

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The MOA said Taiwan and Japan are important agricultural and fishery partners, with Japan being the fourth largest supplier of agricultural imports to Taiwan and taking nearly 15 % of such exports from Taiwan.

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The two countries also share extensive exchanges and reciprocal visits, the MOA said, adding that the newly created section will play a critical role in expanding mutual understanding and paving the way for more cooperation across the board.

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The ministry said Hu also visited three Japanese firms April 25 in Hokkaido that are involved in a cooperative project that uses Taiwan-grown rice for group meals in the region, and expressed desire to see Taiwan become a primary supplier of quality rice to Japan.

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Later in the day, Hu took part in an event at a supermarket chain to promote Taiwan-grown pineapples. MOA statistics show that Taiwan exports of the fruit to Japan hit a record high of 19,373 tons in 2024.