

## CASE STUDY: English-Language Reaction To The End of China's FIT Policy

TABLE 2.0 - Reports and Reactions In Leading International English-Language Media To China Ending Its Free Independent Traveller Policy For Chinese Visitors To Taiwan

| SOURCE   | DATE            | VOICE   | REASONS FOR SUSPENSION OF FIT  | AGENCY |
|--|-----------------|---|--|--------|
| <b>SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST</b><br><br><a href="https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3020787/beijing-halt-individual-travel-permits-taiwan-over-rising">https://www.scmp.com/news/china/politics/article/3020787/beijing-halt-individual-travel-permits-taiwan-over-rising</a> | 31ST JULY 2019  | Robert Kao<br><br>- <i>Head of the Policy Development Committee under Taiwan's Travel Agent Association</i>                           | "It is rather unusual for Beijing to issue such a notice, which could have something to do with the presidential election"   | CHINA  |
|  |                 | Lin Chinfa<br><br>- <i>former Chairman of the Beijing chapter of the Association of Taiwan Investment Enterprises on the Mainland</i> | <p>"This is obviously a temporary move in response to the upcoming presidential elections in Taiwan. I think the mainland just wants to avoid any potential conflicts at this sensitive time,"</p> <p>"The Democratic Progressive Party might regard people visiting Taiwan from the mainland as possible spies or accuse them of meddling in the poll. So this is a way for Beijing to avoid any such trouble."</p> <p>"Although the decision is quite unusual, for people who have been watching and feeling the changes in cross-strait ties for so many years, we know that once the election is over things will return to normal."</p> <p>"If Han Kuo-yu [from the Beijing-friendly Kuomintang party] wins, I am sure the mainland will immediately resume the visa applications,"</p> |        |
| <b>TAIPEI TIMES</b><br><br><a href="http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2019/08/01/2003719708">http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2019/08/01/2003719708</a>   | 1ST AUGUST 2019 | Chu Yen-min (朱晏民)<br><br>- <i>Chairman of KGI Securities Investment Advisory Co (凱基投顧)</i>  | Routine preventative measure as "as China doesn't want its citizens to witness democracy".   | CHINA  |

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| <b>TAIPEI TIMES</b><br><br><a href="http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/print/2019/08/06/2003719988">http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/print/2019/08/06/2003719988</a>  | 6TH<br>AUGUST<br>2019 | Honda Chen 陳鴻達<br><br><i>- Associate Research Fellow at the Taiwan Academy of Banking and Finance</i> | Part of its overall approach to controlling foreign reserves, although it carries additional political benefits.  | CHINA     |
| <b>FORMOSA NEWS</b><br><br><a href="https://englishnews.ftv.com.tw/read.aspx?sno=B96AEEB6AF33A4995EDA455B891AECEB">https://englishnews.ftv.com.tw/read.aspx?sno=B96AEEB6AF33A4995EDA455B891AECEB</a>  | 31ST<br>JULY<br>2019  | Liu Shih-ming<br><br><i>- Taiwan Tourism Bureau</i>   | "In past years, China had cut down the amount of Chinese tourists allowed to visit Taiwan ahead of presidential elections, but this time, it has done away with independent travellers altogether." | CHINA     |
| <b>LOS ANGELES TIMES</b><br><br><a href="https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2019-08-01/china-suspends-independent-travel-to-taiwan">https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2019-08-01/china-suspends-independent-travel-to-taiwan</a> | 1ST<br>AUGUST<br>2019 | Beijing's Ministry of Culture and Tourism   | "Current mainland-Taiwan relations,"  | CHINA     |
|   |                       | Liang Kuo-yuan<br><br><i>- President of Taipei-based think tank Polaris Research Institute</i>        | "Mainland China was motivated by wanting to show that 'in addition to military threats we can actually use the economy as resistance'"  |           |
|   |                       | State-run China Central Television  | Independent travel permits had paused because "risks are increasing" for travellers as Taiwan's January 2020 elections approach.  |           |
| <b>CNN</b><br><br><a href="https://edition.cnn.com/2019/07/31/asia/china-taiwan-tourist-visa-intl-hnk/index.html">https://edition.cnn.com/2019/07/31/asia/china-taiwan-tourist-visa-intl-hnk/index.html</a>                                       | 1ST<br>AUGUST<br>2019 | N/A   | Taipei and Beijing have clashed over issues including a \$2.2 billion US arms sales to Taiwan, the Hong Kong pro-democracy protests and a visit by Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen to New York.       | NOT CLEAR |

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| <b>GLOBAL TIMES</b><br><br><a href="http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1159881.shtml">http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1159881.shtml</a>  | 31ST<br>JULY<br>2019  | Xue Qingde<br><br>- <i>Taiwanese businessman resident in China</i>  | Current cross-Straits ties<br><br>Increasingly tense cross-Straits ties, Chinese observers noted, and resulted from repeated provocative actions by the Tsai Ing-wen administration and secessionist forces on the island.<br><br>"It is the policies adopted by the island authorities that are causing the two sides to drift away," - listed "hostile signals" including curriculum changes at schools that tried to sway Taiwan youth away from reunification. The policy suspension is also a countermeasure to Taiwan's courtship of the US." | TAIWAN |
|   |                       | Zhang Hua<br><br>- <i>Associate Research Fellow of the Institute of Taiwan Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing</i> | "The travel policy suspension is clearly the result of current cross-Straits tensions. The separatist forces in Taiwan have become more and more rampant. The recent military exercises by the People's Liberation Army in waters near the island of Taiwan, especially around the Dongshan Island that faces Taiwan, send a strong signal to the Tsai administration that if they do not adhere to the 1992 Consensus, the peaceful and stable status quo of cross-Straits ties cannot remain,"  |        |
|   |                       | Yang Lixian<br><br>- <i>Research Fellow at the Beijing-based Research Center of Cross-Straits Relations</i>                           | "The ban serves more as a tough gesture by the mainland targeting Tsai. Cross-Straits relations have been worsening under Tsai. The mainland will not allow the Democratic Progressive Party to destroy relations on the one hand and use economic profits from the mainland as their political achievements on the other. How long the ban will last will depend on the result of the Taiwan elections five months later."   |        |
| <b>JAPAN TIMES</b><br><br><a href="https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/08/01/asia-pacific/politics-diplomacy-asia-pacific/china-halts-individual-travel-taiwan/#.XWxv-JIzbNQ">https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/08/01/asia-pacific/politics-diplomacy-asia-pacific/china-halts-individual-travel-taiwan/#.XWxv-JIzbNQ</a> | 1ST<br>AUGUST<br>2019 | China Daily newspaper   | "The move aimed to damage Taiwan's economy and steer voters away from re-electing Tsai. The decline in tourism revenues in turn will send ripples across the island's 'presidential election' that is scheduled for January, as it may prompt the Taiwan people to think about whether it is worthwhile to continue to be bound with a secessionist 'leader' on the same ghost ship for another four years"   | CHINA  |

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| <b>WASHINGTON POST</b><br><br><a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/china-to-stop-issuing-visas-for-mainlanders-to-travel-to-taiwan-as-tensions-mount/2019/07/31/f2e3e0f2-b35c-11e9-acc8-1d847bacca73_story.html?noredirect=on">https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/china-to-stop-issuing-visas-for-mainlanders-to-travel-to-taiwan-as-tensions-mount/2019/07/31/f2e3e0f2-b35c-11e9-acc8-1d847bacca73_story.html?noredirect=on</a> | 31ST JULY 2019 | Adam Ni<br><br><i>- China expert at Macquarie University, Sydney</i>                                | It is the latest escalation in what analysts say is Beijing's broader campaign to pressure Taiwanese voters in the lead-up to next year's presidential election. Beijing is growing increasingly concerned that Tsai Ing-wen, whose Democratic Progressive Party favors a formal declaration of independence from China, will be reelected as president of Taiwan in January.<br><br>"We're seeing Beijing bringing a whole range of tools to bear in order to influence Taiwan and ultimately stop Taiwan from going down the road to de jure independence" | TAIWAN |
|   |                | Margaret Lewis<br><br><i>- Taiwan expert at Seton Hall University</i>                               | "The travel restrictions are an overt public message to Taiwan from Beijing. There is no doubt that this is an escalation. The question is how far it will escalate and what could defuse it."   | CHINA  |
| <b>THE STRAITS TIMES</b><br><br><a href="https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/china-to-halt-individual-taiwan-tourism-permits-for-47-mainland-cities">https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/china-to-halt-individual-taiwan-tourism-permits-for-47-mainland-cities</a>   | 31ST JULY 2019 | N/A   | "Due to current cross-strait relations"<br><br>"Relations between communist-ruled Beijing and Taipei have plummeted since President Tsai Ing-wen came to power in 2016 because her party refuses to recognise the idea that Taiwan is part of "one China"  | TAIWAN |
| <b>TAIWAN NEWS</b><br><br><a href="https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3755748">https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3755748</a>   | 31ST JULY 2019 | Roget Hsu (許高慶)<br><br><i>- Chairman of the Taiwan International Tourist Aid Rescue Association</i> | Many are speculating that Taiwan's upcoming general elections in 2020 could be the rationale for implementing the restrictions. Others believe that it is punishment for Taiwan's support of Hong Kong's anti-extradition law protests.<br><br>"The suspension was implemented with Taiwan's upcoming election in mind. As China places great importance on the 2020 election, it's no surprise restrictions have been put in place again"   | CHINA  |
| <b>REUTERS</b><br><br><a href="https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-taiwan-tourism/china-to-halt-individual-tourism-permits-for-taiwan-amid-rising-tension-idUSKCN1UQ0MW">https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-taiwan-tourism/china-to-halt-individual-tourism-permits-for-taiwan-amid-rising-tension-idUSKCN1UQ0MW</a>   | 31ST JULY 2019 | N/A   | N/A  | CHINA  |

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| <b>NEW YORK TIMES</b><br><br><a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/31/world/asia/taiwan-china-tourist-visas.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/31/world/asia/taiwan-china-tourist-visas.html</a>  | 31ST<br>JULY<br>2019 | Ross Darrell Feingold<br><br><i>- political analyst in Taipei</i>      | “The move is the latest in a series of policy tools that China uses to express its displeasure with a Taiwan government, regardless of who the president is, that does not adhere to China’s preferred framework”  | CHINA  |
|   |                      | Kolas Yotaka<br><br><i>- Spokeswoman for Taiwan’s executive branch</i> | Wednesday’s announcement may also be aimed at preventing Chinese tourists from being exposed to Taiwan’s democratic elections or to sentiment favoring Hong Kong’s protesters.<br><br>“Not only is China limiting mutual interaction between the Taiwanese and Chinese people, it’s also restricting Chinese people’s freedom of movement, fighting against the opportunity for Chinese to better understand Taiwanese,” |        |
| <b>THE TELEGRAPH</b><br><br><a href="https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/07/31/china-stops-issuing-travel-permits-mainlanders-visiting-taiwan/">https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2019/07/31/china-stops-issuing-travel-permits-mainlanders-visiting-taiwan/</a>       | 31ST<br>JULY<br>2019 | Nicola Smith<br><br><i>- Asia Correspondent</i>                        | A move intended to squeeze the island’s economy ahead of presidential elections next year.   | CHINA  |
| <b>BLOOMBERG</b><br><br><a href="https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-07-31/china-to-halt-trial-of-individual-travel-to-taiwan-from-aug-1">https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-07-31/china-to-halt-trial-of-individual-travel-to-taiwan-from-aug-1</a> | 31ST<br>JULY<br>2019 | N/A  | The move may also be aimed at hurting her re-election chances in January’s presidential election.  | CHINA  |
| <b>WALL STREET JOURNAL</b><br><br><a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-halts-individual-tours-to-taiwan-1156458502">https://www.wsj.com/articles/china-halts-individual-tours-to-taiwan-1156458502</a>   | 31ST<br>JULY<br>2019 | N/A (PAYWALL)  | Ban on individual leisure trips increases Beijing’s economic pressure on island and its leader before election.  | CHINA  |

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| <b>BBC</b><br><br><a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-49178314">https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-49178314</a>   | 31ST<br>JULY<br>2019  | N/A   | The current cross-strait situation.   | CHINA  |
| <b>TIME MAGAZINE</b><br><br><a href="https://time.com/5639832/china-bans-travel-taiwan-tourists/">https://time.com/5639832/china-bans-travel-taiwan-tourists/</a>   | 31ST<br>JULY<br>2019  | N/A   | The unexpected move comes as China attempts to isolate Taiwan and Tsai Ing-wen, it's independence-leaning president. The move may also be aimed at hurting her re-election chances in January's presidential election.  |        |
| <b>ABC (Australia)</b><br><br><a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-01/beijing-imposes-ban-on-solo-travellers-to-taiwan/11373236">https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-01/beijing-imposes-ban-on-solo-travellers-to-taiwan/11373236</a> | 1ST<br>AUGUST<br>2019 | Dr Mark Harrison<br><br><i>- Senior Lecturer in Chinese Studies in the School of Humanities at the University of Tasmania</i> | <p>Tensions have been rising between Beijing and Taipei over the past month, with US approving possible sales of \$US2.2 billion (\$AU2.8 billion) in tanks, missiles and related equipment to Taiwan.</p> <p>Local media has cited President Tsai Ing-wen's recent stopover in the United States and her blatant remarks on the Hong Kong protests as possible reasons for the travel suspension.</p> <p>"The decision was too low-level to be a reaction to proposed arms sales — which Beijing already responded to — and was actually a suspension of a pilot individual visit program that was first introduced in 2011."</p> <p>"The Chinese Government has already made representations to the US about the stop-over by President Tsai, so it is unlikely the tourism decision was directly connected to Tsai's visit, except as part of a broader policy calculus"</p> <p>"The decision was likely related to upcoming Taiwan presidential elections in 2020, and given the specific timing, the decision had likely already been in the works for some time. This might be part of broad thinking about 'what China can do in order to intervene in the election'"</p> <p>"It would allow Beijing to give preferred presidential candidate and Kaohsiung Mayor Han Kuo-yu a situation that he would be able to solve."</p> <p>"It's a calibrated action that is trying to avoid blowback against Beijing in ways that would hurt the presidential candidate they would prefer to see win"</p> | CHINA  |

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| <b>CHINA DAILY</b><br><br><a href="http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201908/02/WS5d437162a310cf3e355636d8.html">http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201908/02/WS5d437162a310cf3e355636d8.html</a>  | 2ND<br>AUGUST<br>2019 | Ma Xiaoguang<br><br><i>- Spokesman for the State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office</i>       | <p>"It is the island's ruling Democratic Progressive Party's "Taiwan independence" secessionist activities that led to the suspension of individual travel permits to Taiwan from the Chinese mainland"</p> <p>"The DPP has been promoting 'Taiwan independence' activities, constantly fomenting hostility toward the mainland and creating confrontation across the Straits. They destroyed the foundation and conditions for individual travel."</p> | TAIWAN |
|  |                       | Zhang Wensheng<br><br><i>- Politics Professor at Xiamen University</i>                     | <p>"The main cause of the suspension is the island's leader Tsai Ing-wen and her administration's hostility toward the mainland, and the resulting damage this has done to cross-Straits relations"</p>   |        |
| <b>AL JAZEERA</b><br><br><a href="https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/07/china-halt-individual-travel-taiwan-rising-tensions-190731083458341.html">https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/07/china-halt-individual-travel-taiwan-rising-tensions-190731083458341.html</a> | 31ST<br>JULY<br>2019  | J Michael Cole<br><br><i>- Taipei-based Senior Fellow with the Global Taiwan Institute</i> | <p>Beijing was trying to increase pressure on Tsai.</p> <p>"This likely constitutes [a] round of 'weaponisation of tourism' by Beijing to put pressure on the Tsai administration"</p> <p>"It's reasonable to conclude that this is meant to add to President Tsai's challenges as she seeks re-election in January, facing off against [Han] who claims will seek better, closer relations with Beijing."</p>  | CHINA  |
| <b>CHINA POST</b><br><br><a href="https://chinapost.nownews.com/20190801-669706">https://chinapost.nownews.com/20190801-669706</a>   | 1ST<br>AUGUST<br>2019 | President Tsai Ing-wen   | <p>In Tsai's comments on Thursday, she said it has long been a strategy by China to clamp down on tourism to Taiwan ahead of the latter's major elections, like the January 2020 presidential vote.</p> <p>Beijing has taken a hardline stance on cross-strait relations since Tsai refused as president to accept the "1992 consensus"</p>   | CHIINA |