

# Virtual Discussion: Report on Taiwan Healthcare Policies and US-Taiwan Relations

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# US-Taiwan Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA)

## Impact on bilateral cooperation and healthcare issues

- Current Taiwan Government is strongly behind a US-Taiwan BTA
  - Could increase two-way trade and investment, and strengthen ties
  - Could help Taiwan diversify away from China
  - Could provide a pathway for other countries to pursue similar agreements with Taiwan.

# Bilateral Tread Agreement (BTA)

## Impact on bilateral cooperation and healthcare issues

- Potential Concerns for Taiwan Government
  - The BTA could decrease DPP's traditional support
    - US pork and beef import
  - There might be impact on the local pharmaceutical and medical device industry
    - Pushback from pharmaceutical and medical device industry
  - Current cost containment policies may become an issue
    - Pushback from patients
  - Will Biden Administration support a US-Taiwan BTA?

# Taiwan's Healthcare Policies

- Aimed for cost containment and protection of local industry
  - Cost containment is planned from welfare perspective, which will not foster innovation
- Regulatory issues
  - Long approval timeline – product and clinical trials
  - Unnecessary requirements and documentation
  - Different level of playing field for EU and US
- Progress can be made through negotiation and consumer advocacy
  - US Pork and beef import
  - Advocacy for not requiring animal testing for food safety
  - BTA negotiation?

# Potential future business ties

- R&D and commercial collaboration between US and Taiwan's healthcare industry
  - Remote healthcare
    - Taiwan has excellent ICT and hardware, but weak in software
  - Pharmaceuticals
    - Taiwan has excellent manufacturing standards, but lack of innovation
  - Medical Device
    - Taiwan has ICT industry as the backbone but lack of understanding for international regulatory requirements
  - Information for finding potential collaborators

# Potential future business ties

- Strategic supply chain
  - Supply chain needs to be diversified, and Taiwan can help
    - Taiwan's manufacturing meets international standards (PIC/S GMP)
    - Raw material and life-saving drugs – Doxil, potentially valsartan, etc.
    - Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) – masks, gloves, respirators, etc.
- Strategic National stockpile (SNS)
  - Taiwan's industry can help stockpile for emergency use
    - PPE
    - Antibiotics – Anthrax countermeasures (levofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, etc.)
    - Antivirals and vaccines – Flu pandemic

# BTA and US-Taiwan Business ties

- Future business ties between the US and Taiwan is important
  - Economical and strategic
- BTA could foster more international collaboration
- BTA could potentially remove regulatory and pricing hurdles to increase US-Taiwan business ties