

「國際前鋒論壇報」刊登簡部長專文，籲請世界衛生組織接納台灣



部長在SARS國際研討會上致詞

前言

國際主流媒體之一、「國際前鋒論壇報」(International Herald Tribune)本(九十二)年五月十六日在全球同步發行的社論與評論版中刊登本部簡部長又新所撰「請給台灣WHO身分」(Give Taiwan WHO Status)專文。該文指出，由目前橫掃亞洲的SARS疫情顯示，在全球化過程中，衛生議題方面須要國際社會成員的共同合作，因為防疫工作是攸關整體安全的大事，任何的漏洞均將對整個國際社會形成立即而明顯的危害，部長於文中鄭重呼籲世界衛生組織接納台灣，因為台灣的參與可補平防疫體系的缺口，讓每個人的健康都受益。本刊特將全文及中譯文刊出，以饗讀者。

By Eugene Chien (IHT) Friday, May 16, 2003

TAIPEI: The SARS epidemic ravaging Asia shows the need for the complete cooperation of all members of the international community in matters of health. Because we live in a world that is closely linked by travel and commerce, any loophole in the prevention and treatment network presents a danger for the entire global community.

Taiwan faces just this situation. The island, a major hub of trade and transportation in the Asia-Pacific region, is on the front line in the fight against severe acute respiratory syndrome, with 281 suspected SARS cases and 34 deaths from the disease officially reported as of Thursday.

Millions of people travel between Taiwan and every corner of the world every year; our ports and

airports count among the world's busiest. Taiwan's democratically elected government has exclusive authority over the health care of its 23 million residents. The government has put in place a comprehensive public health insurance system, a nationwide network of medical treatment and reporting, and a substantial capacity for modern medical research. It has also extended humanitarian and medical assistance to many parts of the world.

Yet like all countries, Taiwan is vulnerable to sudden outbreaks, especially of newly emerging diseases. Unfortunately, for reasons related to politics, not health, Taiwan is not allowed to participate in the global outbreak alert and response system of the World Health Organization, a United Nations agency.