



TAIWAN FOUNDATION
for DEMOCRACY

財團法人臺灣民主基金會

Taiwan's Policies on Indigenous Languages: An International Perspective

Speaker: Dr. Brett Todd,
Postdoctoral Fellow, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy

Date: Tuesday, May 31, 2022

Time: 15:30 - 17:00

**Venue: Room 101, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy
No. 4, Alley 17, Lane 147, Sec. 3, Sinyi Rd., Taipei, Taiwan**

**Moderator: Mr. Marcin Jerzewski (葉皓勤), Analyst, European Values Center for
Security Policy, Taipei Office**

**Discussant: Dr. Ming-huey Wang (汪明輝), Associate Professor of Department of
Geography and Director of Indigenous Research and Development Center
at National Taiwan Normal University**

Agenda:

15:30 – 15:40 Opening remarks by Moderator Mr. Marcin Jerzewski

15:40 – 16:20 Presentation by Dr. Brett Todd

16:20 – 16:40 Comments by Discussant Dr. Ming-huey Wang

16:40 – 17:00 Open discussion

※ **This event is conducted in English.**


Abstract:

We are now five months into the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, intended by the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to focus attention on a severe decline in the use of traditional languages in Indigenous communities around the world. This dire situation is not news for the concerned community members who have been working to revitalize their threatened languages. Some governments have responded to Indigenous demands through legislative measures to recognize, protect and promote their languages. In 2017 Taiwan passed the *Indigenous Languages Development Act*, thereby joining the ranks of a dozen countries in Oceania and the Americas that have enacted such laws, typically with acknowledgements of past wrongs and reference to international standards on the rights of Indigenous peoples. In my presentation I will consider how Taiwan compares to Latin American and Anglo settler states regarding institutional support provided to Indigenous languages, the role played by community members, and possible international implications.

Speaker Biography

Dr. Brett Todd was awarded his PhD by the University of New South Wales (UNSW) for an analysis of Colombia's policies to protect Indigenous languages. His teaching roles, most recently with the University of Sydney and previously with UNSW and the University of

Technology Sydney (UTS), have included Latin American Studies, Global Studies, International Relations, and study abroad programs. Prior to entering academia, Brett worked as a lawyer in Sydney, and he has also worked, studied or interned in Japan, Canada, Britain, Switzerland, Argentina and Chile. Before commencing his current fellowship with Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, Brett was a visiting scholar at National Taiwan Normal University on a Taiwan Fellowship from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For more detail, see www.sydney.edu.au/arts/about/our-people/academic-staff/brett-todd



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