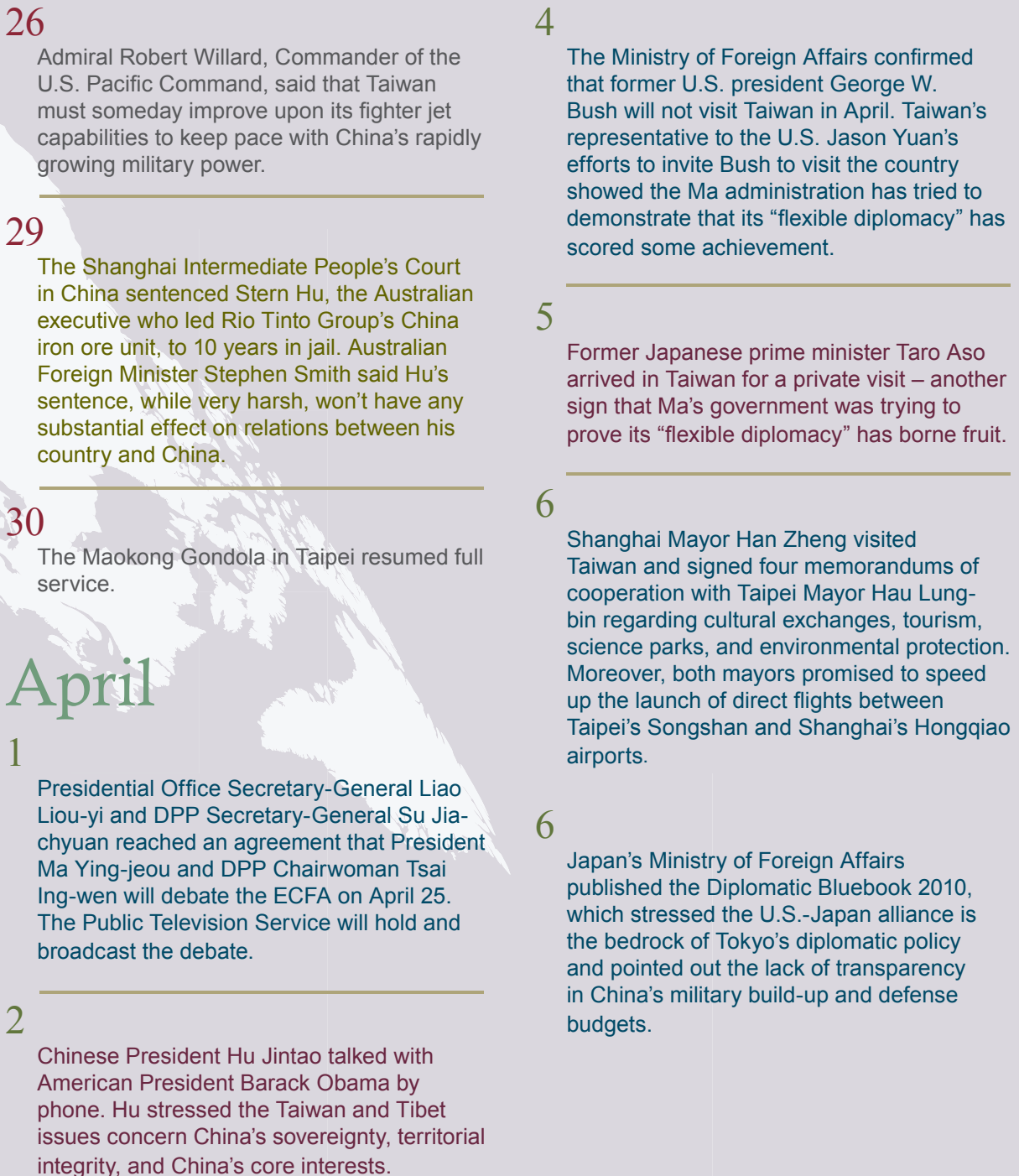


## *Chronology of Events* *(March 17 – April 16)*

### March

- 17** Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Chairwoman Tsai Ing-wen announced her intention to seek re-election as party chief rather than run in any of the five year-end mayoral races.
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- 18** Taiwan Foundation for Democracy's (TFD) Board of Directors approved the appointment of Huang Teh-fu as the new TFD president. Huang's predecessor Lin Wen-cheng said pressure from President Ma Ying-jeou had caused his departure from the TFD presidency.
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- 19** The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) rejected a proposal to ban international trade in Atlantic bluefin tuna in Doha by a vote of 68 to 20, with 30 abstentions.
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- 21** President Ma Ying-jeou embarked on a trip to six diplomatic allies in the South Pacific that concluded on March 27. Ma elaborated on his "diplomatic truce" policy, "flexible diplomacy," and issues related to climate change during the trip.
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- 21** With a 219-to-212 vote, the U.S. House of Representatives gave final approval to a healthcare reform bill passed by the U.S. Senate.
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- 22** Google announced its decision to withdraw from the Chinese market and to move its Chinese-language search engine to Hong Kong in protest against China's restrictions on Internet freedom. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated on March 23 that the Google issue should not be linked to China's relations with the U.S.
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- 24** The Chinese-language Liberty Times quoted a report by CLSA, a Hong Kong-based brokerage and investment firm, as predicting that the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) will lose the 2012 presidential election. This news report sparked extensive public discussions.
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- 25** China's Vice Minister of Commerce Jiang Zengwei arrived in Taiwan to attend the Retail Business Forum Across the Straits. Jiang said that the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) will help China and Taiwan further open markets to each other, the signing of the ECFA will follow the principle of mutual benefit, and small- and medium-sized businesses, especially farmers, will be taken care of.
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- 26** A South Korean naval ship, the Cheonan, sank near a disputed sea border with North Korea. The cause is still under investigation. In response, Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou, who was in Palau at the time, called three emergency meetings with national security officials.

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- 26 Admiral Robert Willard, Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, said that Taiwan must someday improve upon its fighter jet capabilities to keep pace with China's rapidly growing military power.
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- 29 The Shanghai Intermediate People's Court in China sentenced Stern Hu, the Australian executive who led Rio Tinto Group's China iron ore unit, to 10 years in jail. Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith said Hu's sentence, while very harsh, won't have any substantial effect on relations between his country and China.
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- 30 The Maokong Gondola in Taipei resumed full service.
- ## April
- 1 Presidential Office Secretary-General Liao Liou-yi and DPP Secretary-General Su Jia-chyuan reached an agreement that President Ma Ying-jeou and DPP Chairwoman Tsai Ing-wen will debate the ECFA on April 25. The Public Television Service will hold and broadcast the debate.
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- 2 Chinese President Hu Jintao talked with American President Barack Obama by phone. Hu stressed the Taiwan and Tibet issues concern China's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and China's core interests.
- 4 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that former U.S. president George W. Bush will not visit Taiwan in April. Taiwan's representative to the U.S. Jason Yuan's efforts to invite Bush to visit the country showed the Ma administration has tried to demonstrate that its "flexible diplomacy" has scored some achievement.
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- 5 Former Japanese prime minister Taro Aso arrived in Taiwan for a private visit – another sign that Ma's government was trying to prove its "flexible diplomacy" has borne fruit.
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- 6 Shanghai Mayor Han Zheng visited Taiwan and signed four memorandums of cooperation with Taipei Mayor Hau Lung-bin regarding cultural exchanges, tourism, science parks, and environmental protection. Moreover, both mayors promised to speed up the launch of direct flights between Taipei's Songshan and Shanghai's Hongqiao airports.
- 6 Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs published the Diplomatic Bluebook 2010, which stressed the U.S.-Japan alliance is the bedrock of Tokyo's diplomatic policy and pointed out the lack of transparency in China's military build-up and defense budgets.

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A newspaper report revealed that former premier Liu Chao-shiuan will attend the Shanghai World Expo lantern-lighting ceremony. Liu's plan has triggered the opposition party's indignation and protests due to concerns about national security.

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The 16<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was held in Hanoi, Vietnam. The summit's agenda covered issues such as the realization of the ASEAN Charter, the Roadmap for an ASEAN Community from 2009 to 2015, and climate change.

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8

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner paid an unexpected visit to China to meet Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan. The talks between Geithner and Wang had centered on the appreciation of the renminbi and the second round of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue.

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9

The Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2010, with the theme "Green Recovery: Asia's Realistic Choice for Sustainable Growth," was held on April 9 to 11. Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping insisted on this occasion that the mainland and Taiwan belong to one China.

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10

Polish President Lech Kaczynski and scores of senior national security officials died in a tragic plane crash.

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11

The DPP held a seminar entitled "The Challenges Taiwan Cannot Avoid" to solicit public opinions on a package of "10-year policy guidelines" that the party has been planning to draw up. DPP Chairwoman Tsai Ing-wen stated that the country is likely to see a crisis of trust between generations because of its quickly aging population.

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12

The Nuclear Summit opened in Washington, D.C. More than 40 national leaders attended the meeting and discussed ways to secure atomic and radioactive materials and facilities and to prevent nuclear trafficking and acts of nuclear terrorism. Chinese President Hu Jintao also participated in the summit and held meetings with U.S. and Japanese leaders.