

Exploring opportunities ... in TAIWAN

The Island

Situated in East Asia, Taiwan has a **population of over 23 million and an area of 36 thousand square km**. Its capital city is Taipei (2.6mln) and some of the largest cities include New Taipei (3.9mln) and Kaohsiung (2.7mln), among five other cities over 1.8mln.

Taiwan is officially part of the People’s Republic of China and sound relations with China feature among the most important political issues on the island. Taiwanese population consists of 98% of Han Chinese. Taiwan experienced a Dutch period in the 17th century and has been under the rule of China (conquered in 1683) and Japan (ceded in 1895). The island was surrendered to China by Japan after World War II. Taiwan evolved into a multi-party democracy with universal suffrage in the 1980s – 1990s. It ranks highly in terms of freedom of the press, health care, public education, economic freedom, and human development.



Source: Magellan Geographix

The Economy

The second half of the 20th century brought modernization and industrialization to the island. The period triggered rapid economic development and transformed the island into an advanced industrial economy, the so called “Taiwan Miracle.” Taiwan is one of the Four Asian Tigers (along with Hong Kong, South Korea and Singapore), member of the World Trade Organization and APEC. Taiwanese advanced technology plays a key role in global economy and the island has established itself as the 19th largest economy in the world. Unlike its neighbors (South Korea and Japan), the Taiwanese economy is dominated by small and medium sized businesses, rather than the large business groups.

Although Taiwan suffered severely from the global financial crisis that started in the US in 2007...

... it managed to come out of it in a relatively good shape.

And in 2010, economic growth reached 10%, the highest rate in almost 30 years.

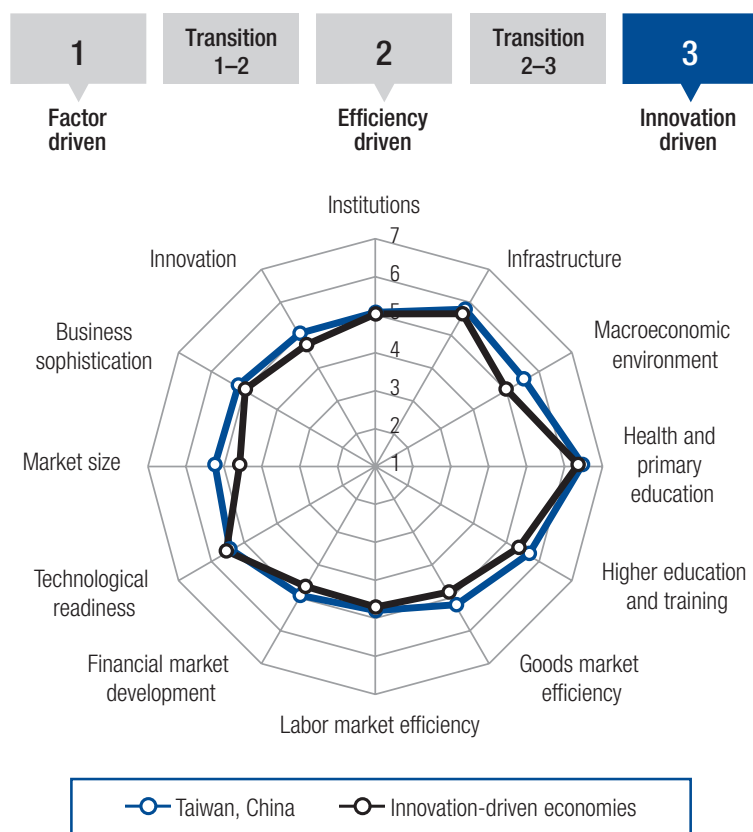
The Reputation

According to the World Bank’s “Doing Business 2013” report,¹ Taiwan ranks 16th on the ease of doing business. In the Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013 of the World Economic Forum² Taiwan was listed as the 13th most competitive.

In Conclusion

- Taiwanese economy is dominated by small and medium sized businesses;
- Taiwanese advanced technology plays a key role in global economy;
- In the past year Taiwan has made huge progress on the ease of receiving construction permits;
- Investor protection has been strengthened by increasing disclosure requirements and improving the liability regime for company directors in cases of abusive transactions.

Stage of development



Source: The Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013

¹ The World Bank and The International Finance Corporation, “Doing Business 2013: Smarter Regulations for Small and Medium-Size Enterprises,” retrievable at: <http://www.doingbusiness.org/~media/GIAWB/Doing%20Business/Documents/Annual-Reports/English/DB13-full-report.pdf>

² The World Economic Forum, “The Global Competitiveness Report 2012-2013,” retrievable at: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GlobalCompetitivenessReport_2012-13.pdf